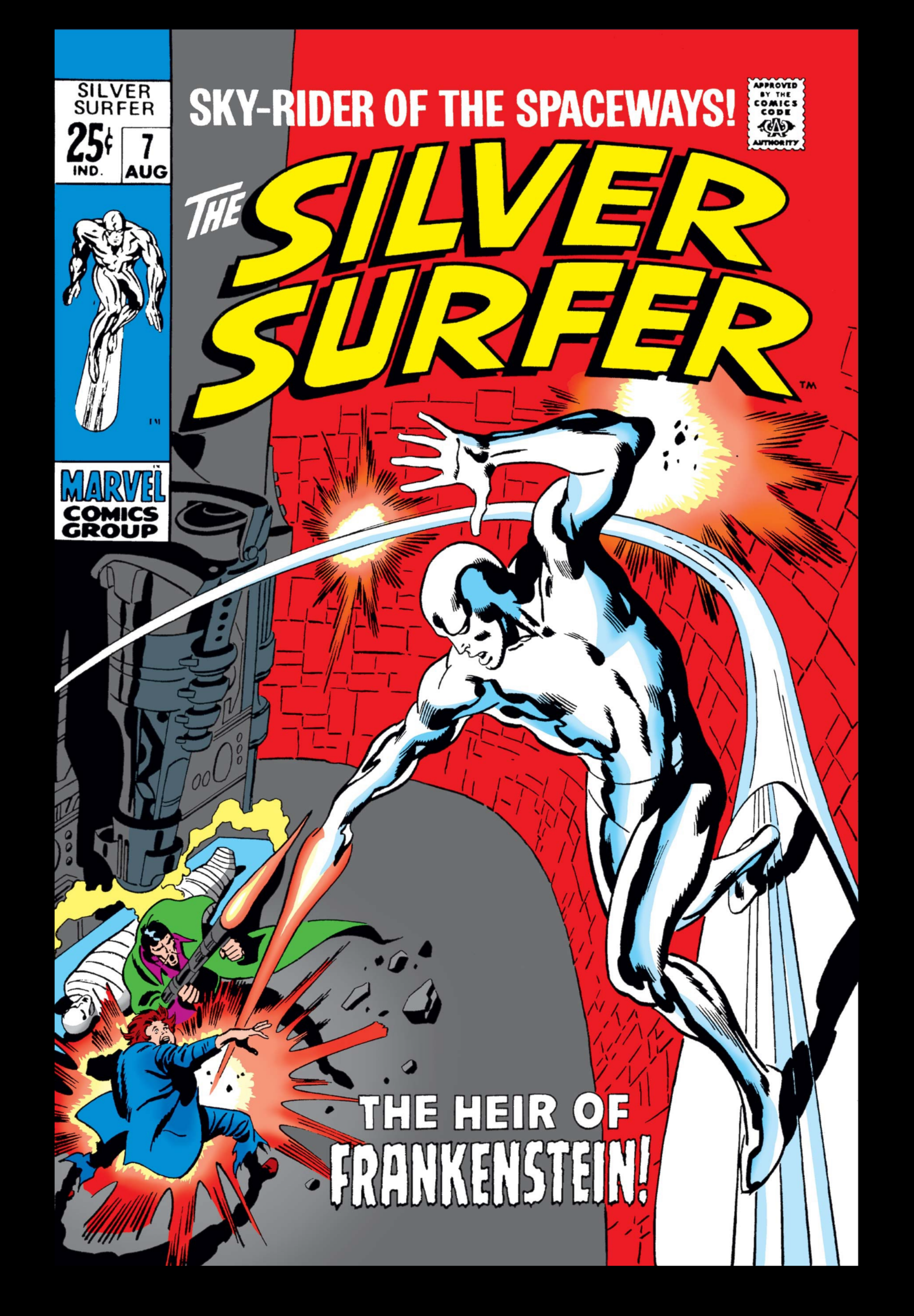
SILVER SURFER
25¢ IND.
7 AUG
SKY-RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE SILVER SURFER™
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE HEIR OF FRANKENSTEIN!

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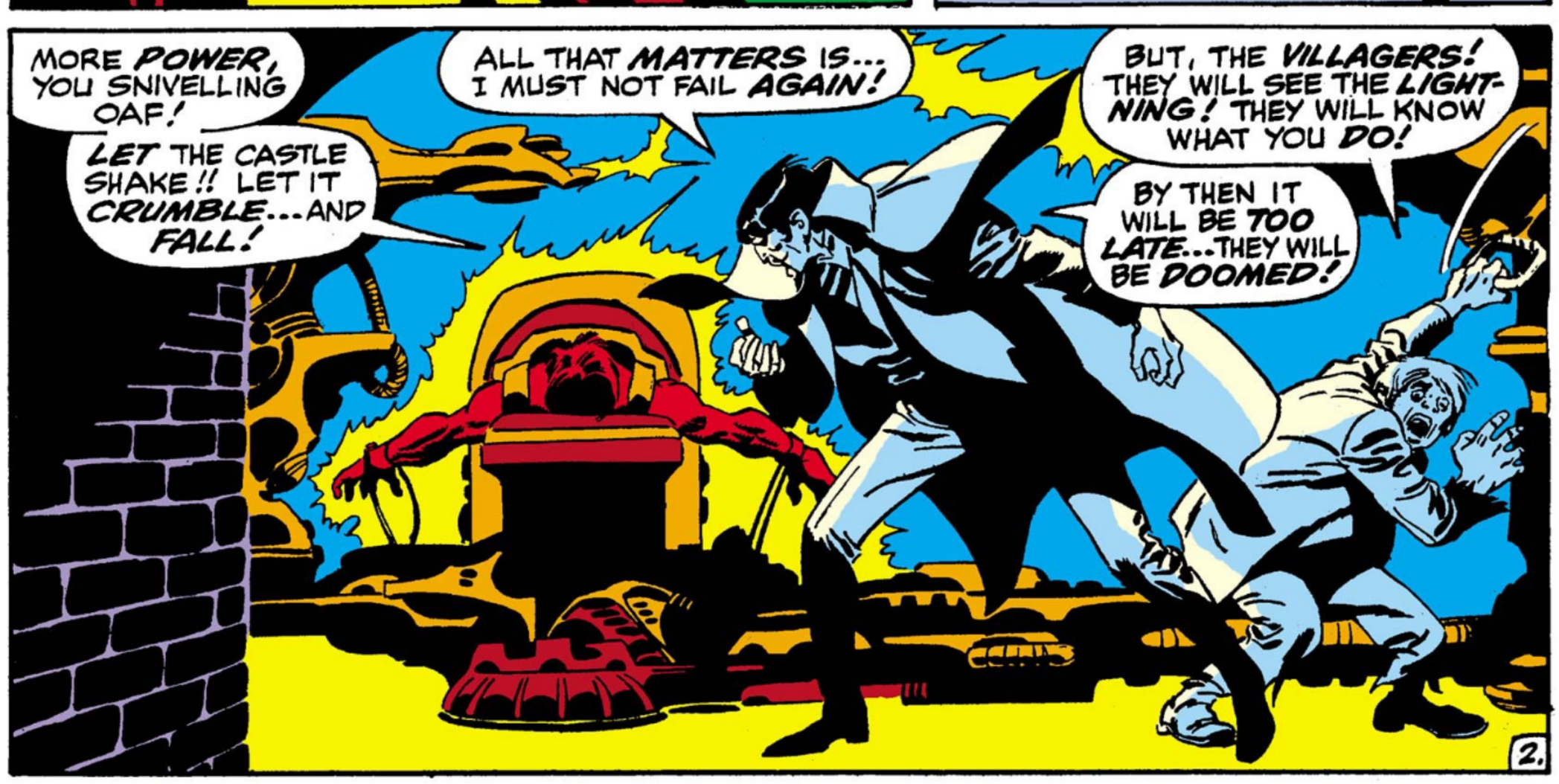
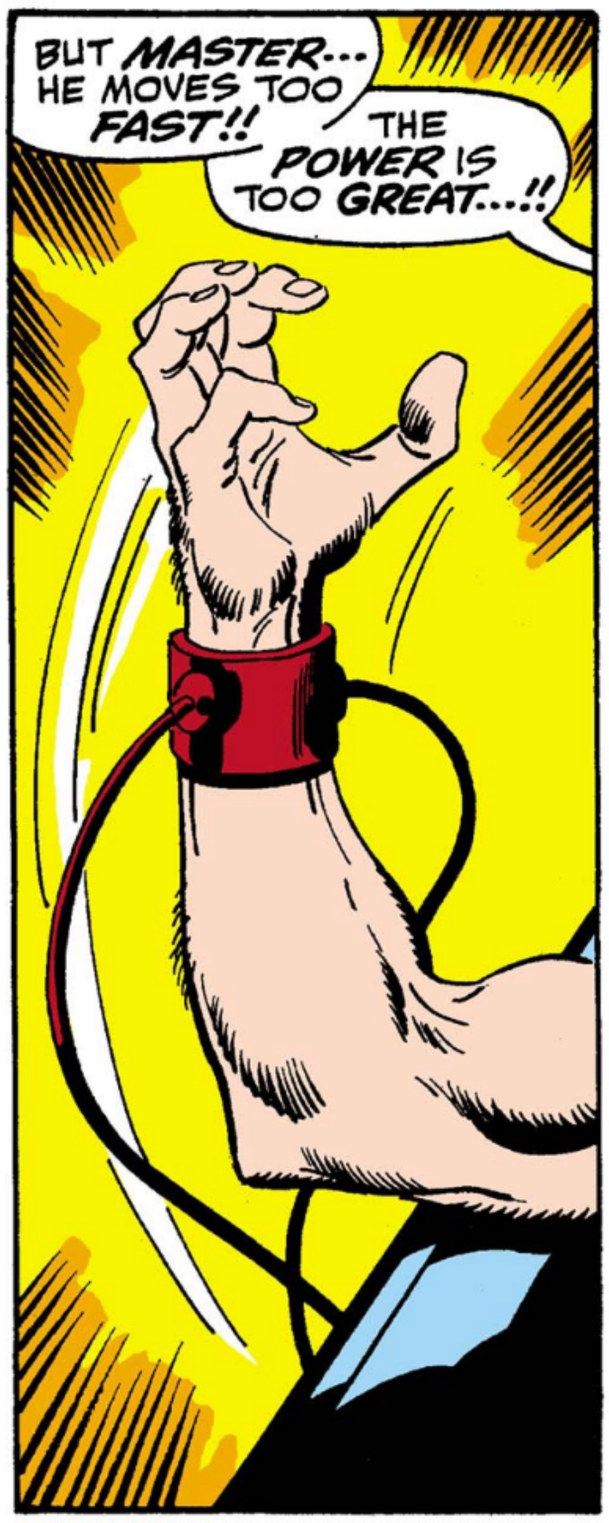
IF THEY COULD CREATE LIFE... THEN WHY NOT I?
DOES THE BLOOD OF THE FRANKENSTEINS NOT FLOW WITHIN MY VEINS AS WELL?
THIS TIME I SHALL INCREASE THE POWER! THIS TIME I SHALL ...SUCCEED!
BUT MASTER... EVEN SUCCESS BROUGHT NOTHING BUT TRAGEDY TO THE FIRST COUNT FRANKEN-STEIN!

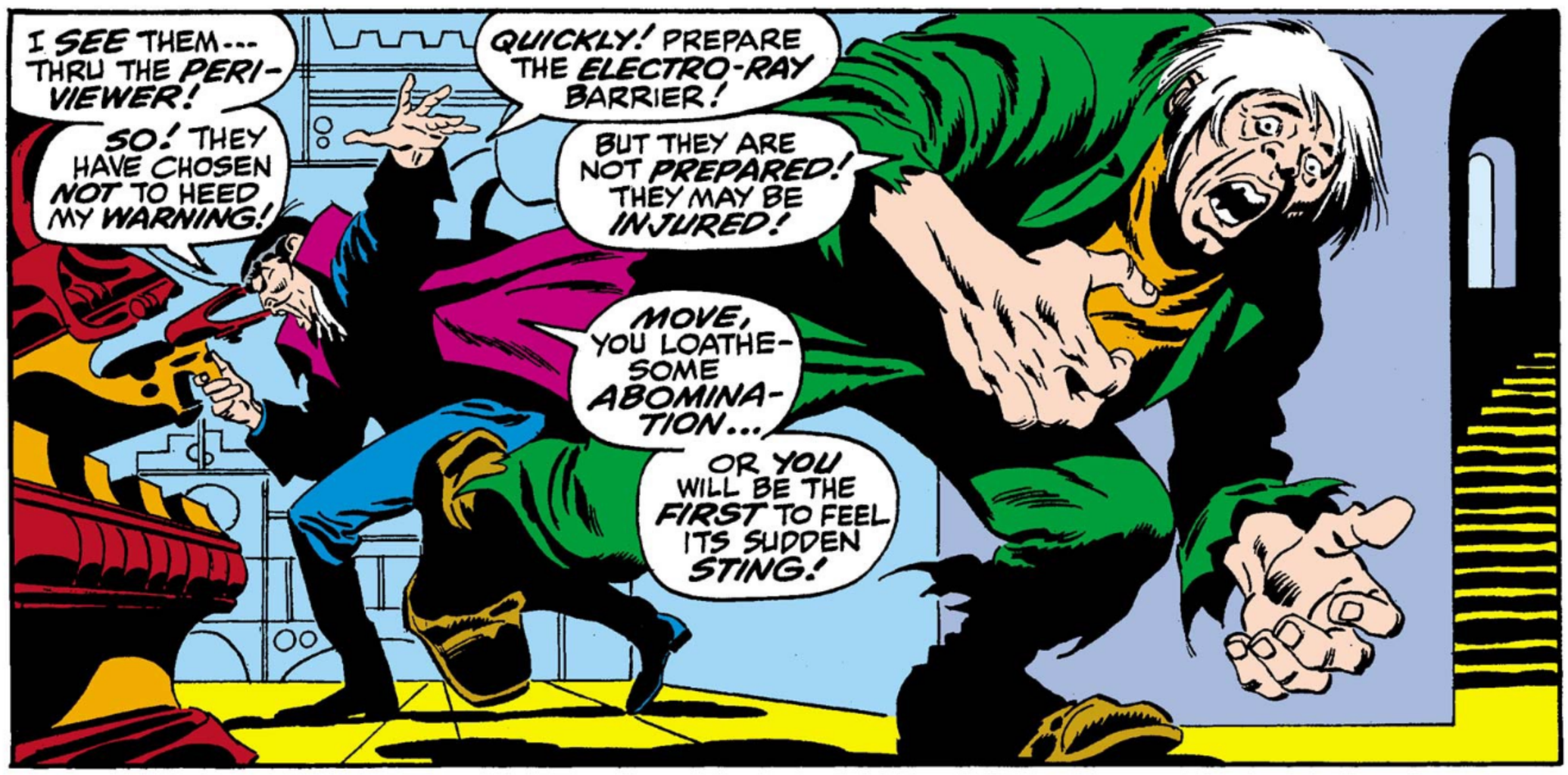
HE WAS A FOOL! THEY ALL WERE FOOLS!
NONE OF THEM COULD RIVAL MY GENIUS... OR MY TOTAL RUTHLESS-NESS!
NOTHING SHALL EVER STAND IN MY WAY!
EVEN THE WALLS BEGIN TO SHAKE!!


MORE POWER, YOU SNIVELLING OAF!
LET THE CASTLE SHAKE!! LET IT CRUMBLE...AND FALL!
ALL THAT MATTERS IS... I MUST NOT FAIL AGAIN!
BUT, THE VILLAGERS! THEY WILL SEE THE LIGHT-NING! THEY WILL KNOW WHAT YOU DO!
BY THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE...THEY WILL BE DOOMED!
2.

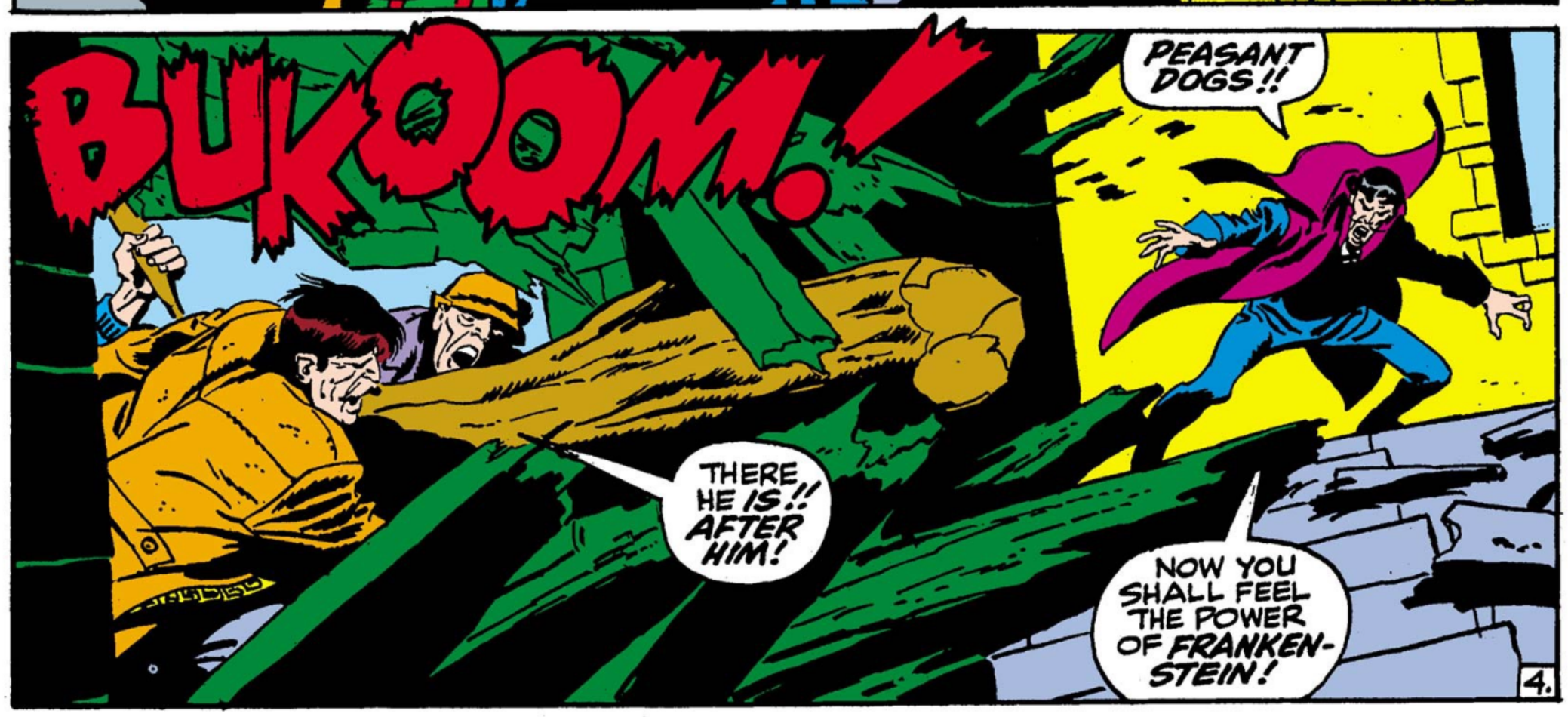
I WILL SEND THE MONSTER AGAINST THEM... TO PAY THEM BACK FOR ALL...
...WAIT!!
HE MOVES!! DO YOU SEE IT, YOU SWINE?? HE MOVES!!


BUT MASTER... HE MOVES TOO FAST!!
THE POWER IS TOO GREAT...!!

IT IS... OVER! I HAVE FAILED... AGAIN!
THE SOUND OF VOICES... FROM OUT-SIDE!!
IT IS THE VILLAGERS! THEY KNOW! THEY KNOW!
3.

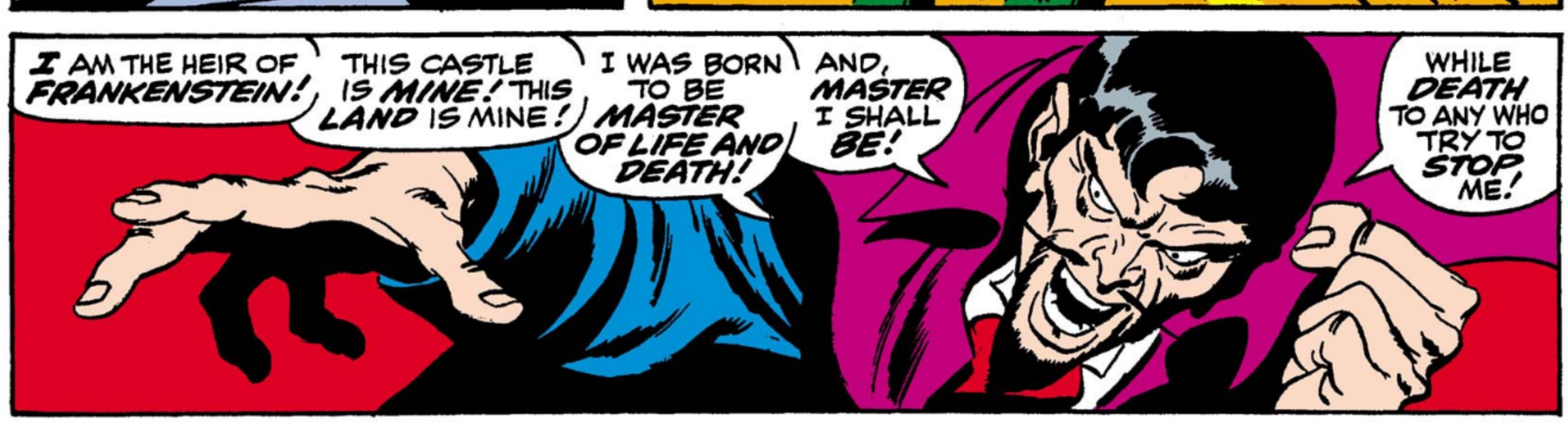

I SEE THEM--- THRU THE PERI-VIEWER!
SO! THEY HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO HEED MY WARNING!
QUICKLY! PREPARE THE ELECTRO-RAY BARRIER!
BUT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED! THEY MAY BE INJURED!
MOVE, YOU LOATHE-SOME ABOMINA-TION...
OR YOU WILL BE THE FIRST TO FEEL ITS SUDDEN STING!

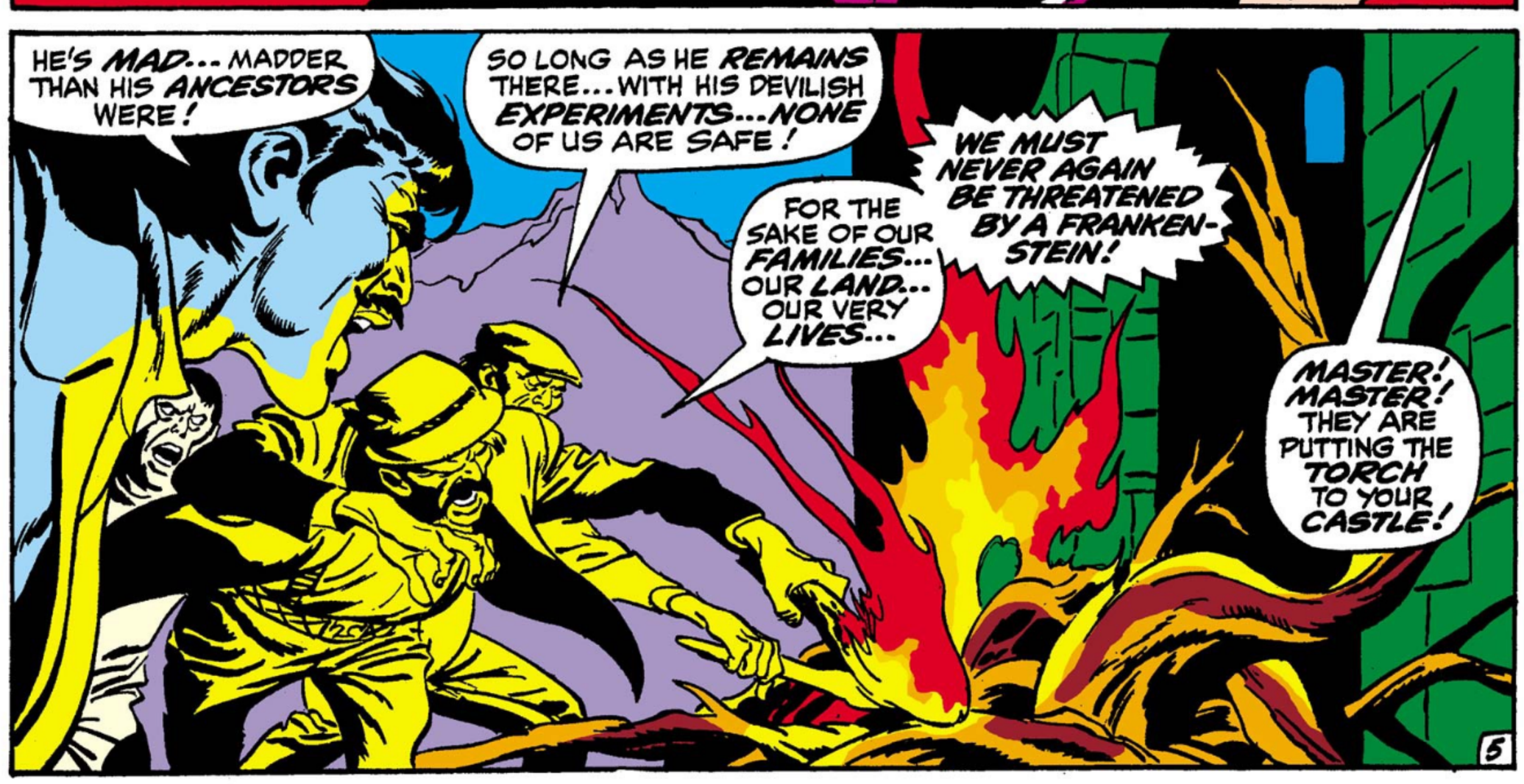
WE WARNED HIM... BUT HE WOULD NOT LISTEN!
NOW THE TIME FOR WARNINGS IS LONG PAST!
ATTACK! ATTACK! WE MUST DRIVE HIM FROM THIS LAND!
NEVER AGAIN SHALL WE BE MENACED BY THE MONSTERS OF A FRANKEN-STEIN!

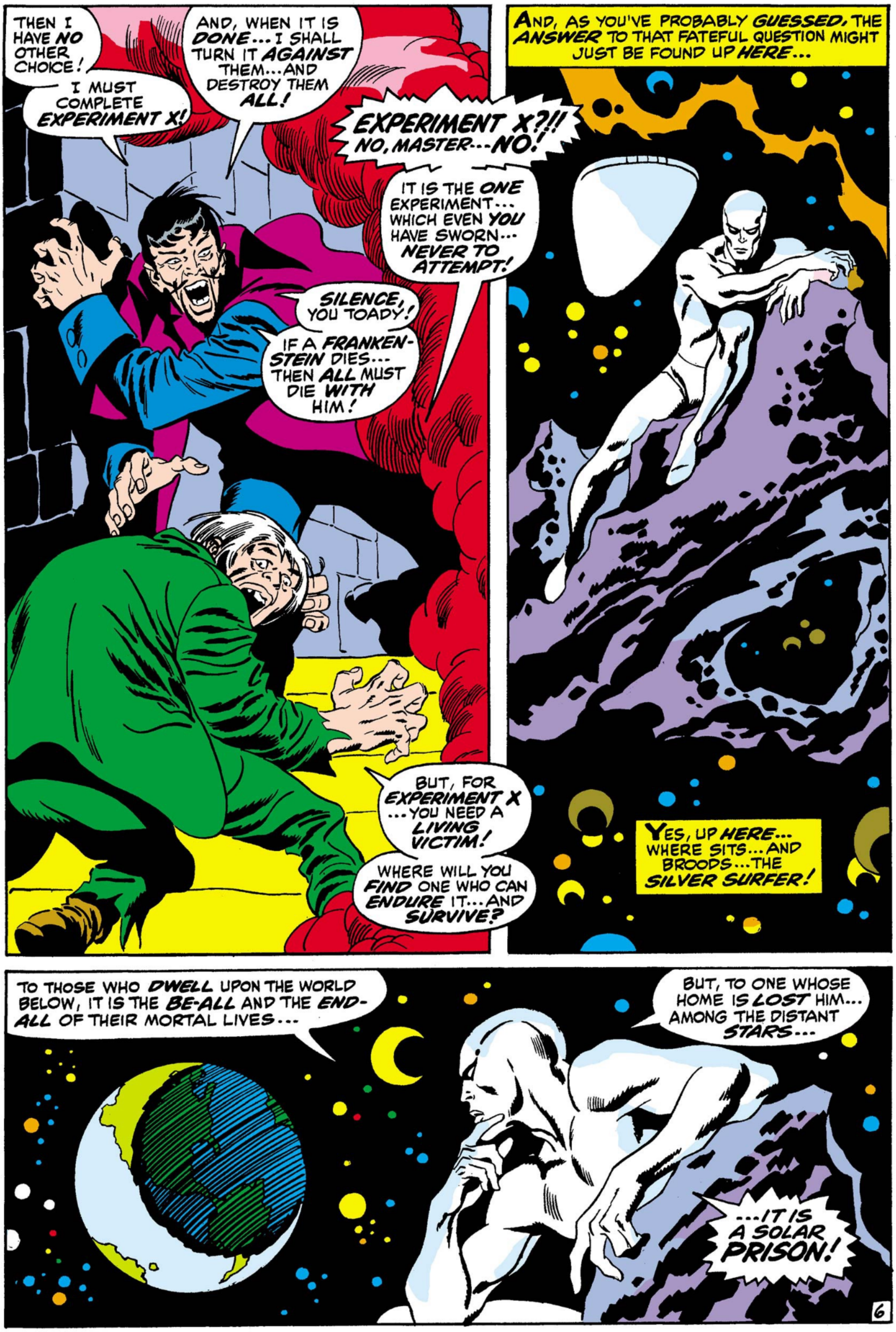

BUKOOM!
PEASANT DOGS!!
THERE HE IS!! AFTER HIM!
NOW YOU SHALL FEEL THE POWER OF FRANKEN-STEIN!
4.

MASTER... WHY DO WE NOT LEAVE?
SURELY THEY HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH!
THE SWITCH, YOU COWARD! THROW THE SWITCH!

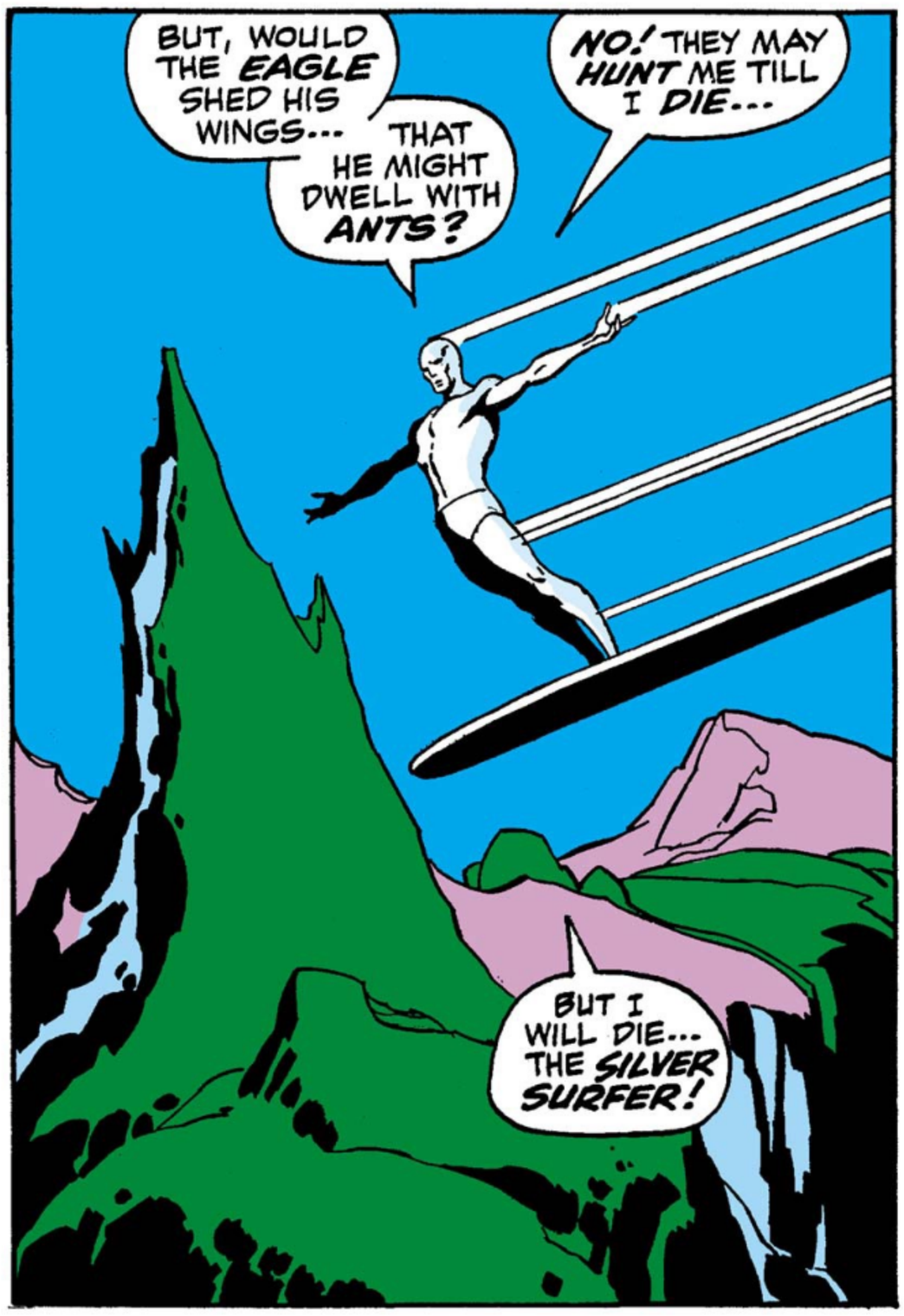
SZASK!
ARHHH!
PERFECT!
THAT WILL DRIVE THEM BACK... LIKE THE CARRION THEY ARE!

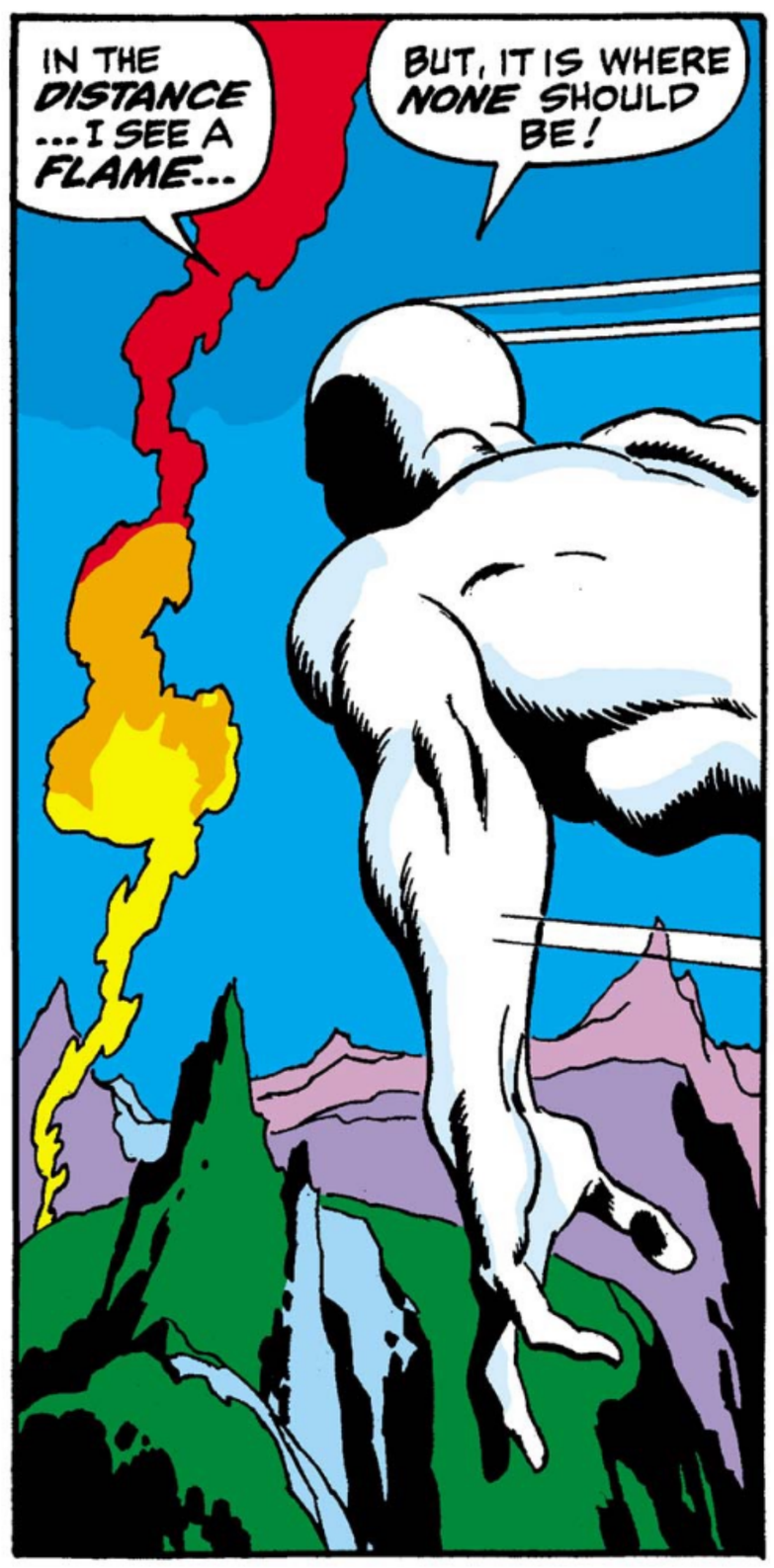

I AM THE HEIR OF FRANKENSTEIN!
THIS CASTLE IS MINE! THIS LAND IS MINE!
I WAS BORN TO BE MASTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
AND, MASTER I SHALL BE!
WHILE DEATH TO ANY WHO TRY TO STOP ME!


HE'S MAD... MADDER THAN HIS ANCESTORS WERE!
SO LONG AS HE REMAINS THERE... WITH HIS DEVILISH EXPERIMENTS... NONE OF US ARE SAFE!
FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FAMILIES... OUR LAND... OUR VERY LIVES...
WE MUST NEVER AGAIN BE THREATENED BY A FRANKEN-STEIN!
MASTER! MASTER! THEY ARE PUTTING THE TORCH TO YOUR CASTLE!
5


THEN I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
I MUST COMPLETE EXPERIMENT X!
AND, WHEN IT IS DONE... I SHALL TURN IT AGAINST THEM...AND DESTROY THEM ALL!
EXPERIMENT X?!! NO, MASTER---NO!
IT IS THE ONE EXPERIMENT... WHICH EVEN YOU HAVE SWORN... NEVER TO ATTEMPT!
SILENCE, YOU TOADY!
IF A FRANKEN-STEIN DIES... THEN ALL MUST DIE WITH HIM!
BUT, FOR EXPERIMENT X ...YOU NEED A LIVING VICTIM!
WHERE WILL YOU FIND ONE WHO CAN ENDURE IT...AND SURVIVE?
AND, AS YOU'VE PROBABLY GUESSED, THE ANSWER TO THAT FATEFUL QUESTION MIGHT JUST BE FOUND UP HERE...
YES, UP HERE... WHERE SITS...AND BROODS...THE SILVER SURFER!
TO THOSE WHO DWELL UPON THE WORLD BELOW, IT IS THE BE-ALL AND THE END-ALL OF THEIR MORTAL LIVES...
BUT, TO ONE WHOSE HOME IS LOST HIM... AMONG THE DISTANT STARS...
...IT IS A SOLAR PRISON!
6

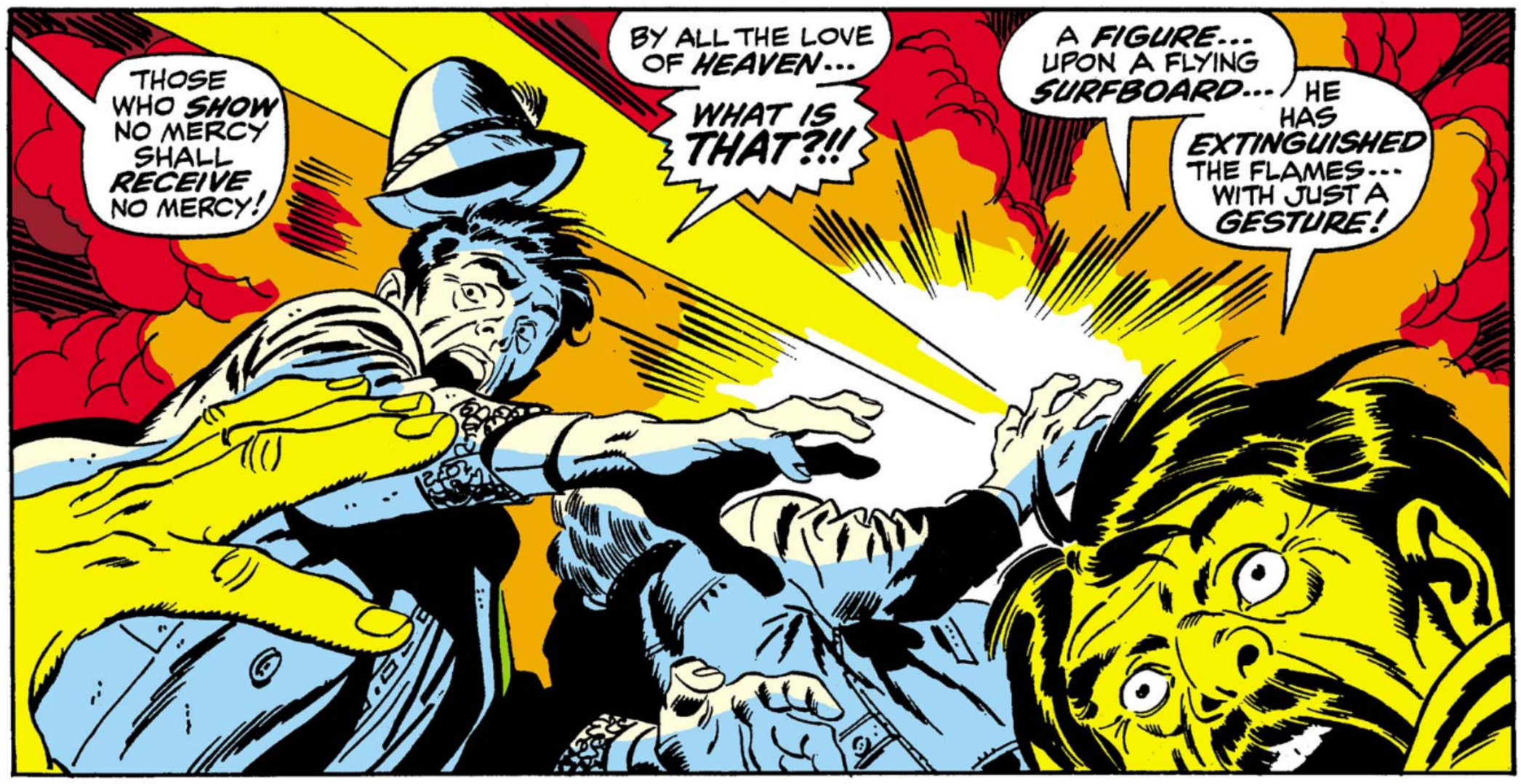
SOME THERE ARE MIGHT THINK ME MAD...
BECAUSE I DO NOT CHOOSE TO WALK AMONG THEM!
FOR, WITH MY POWER COSMIC I COULD CONCEAL MY FEATURES...AND HAVE THEM THINK ME HUMAN!

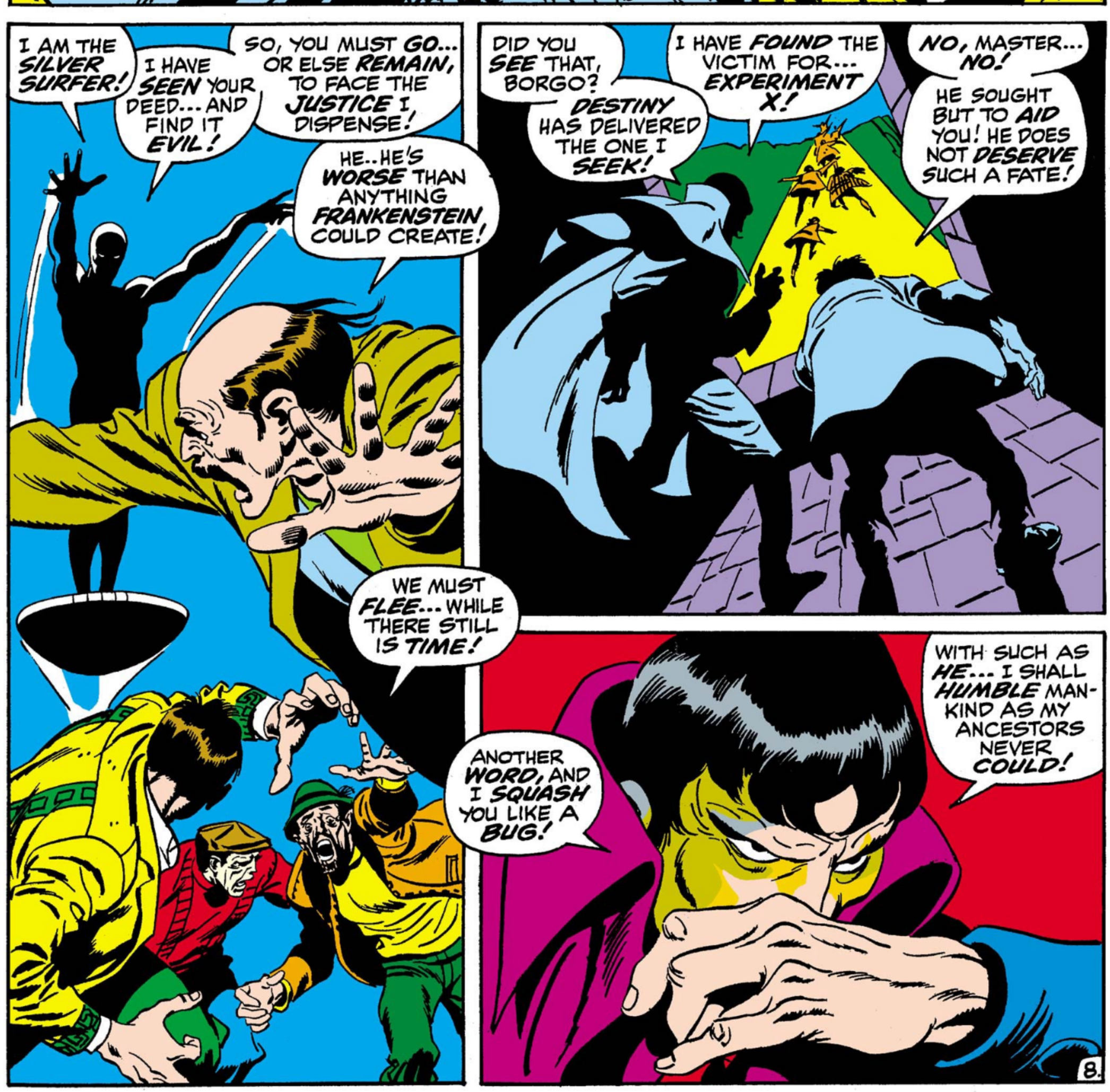

BUT, WOULD THE EAGLE SHED HIS WINGS...
THAT HE MIGHT DWELL WITH ANTS?
NO! THEY MAY HUNT ME TILL I DIE...
BUT I WILL DIE... THE SILVER SURFER!

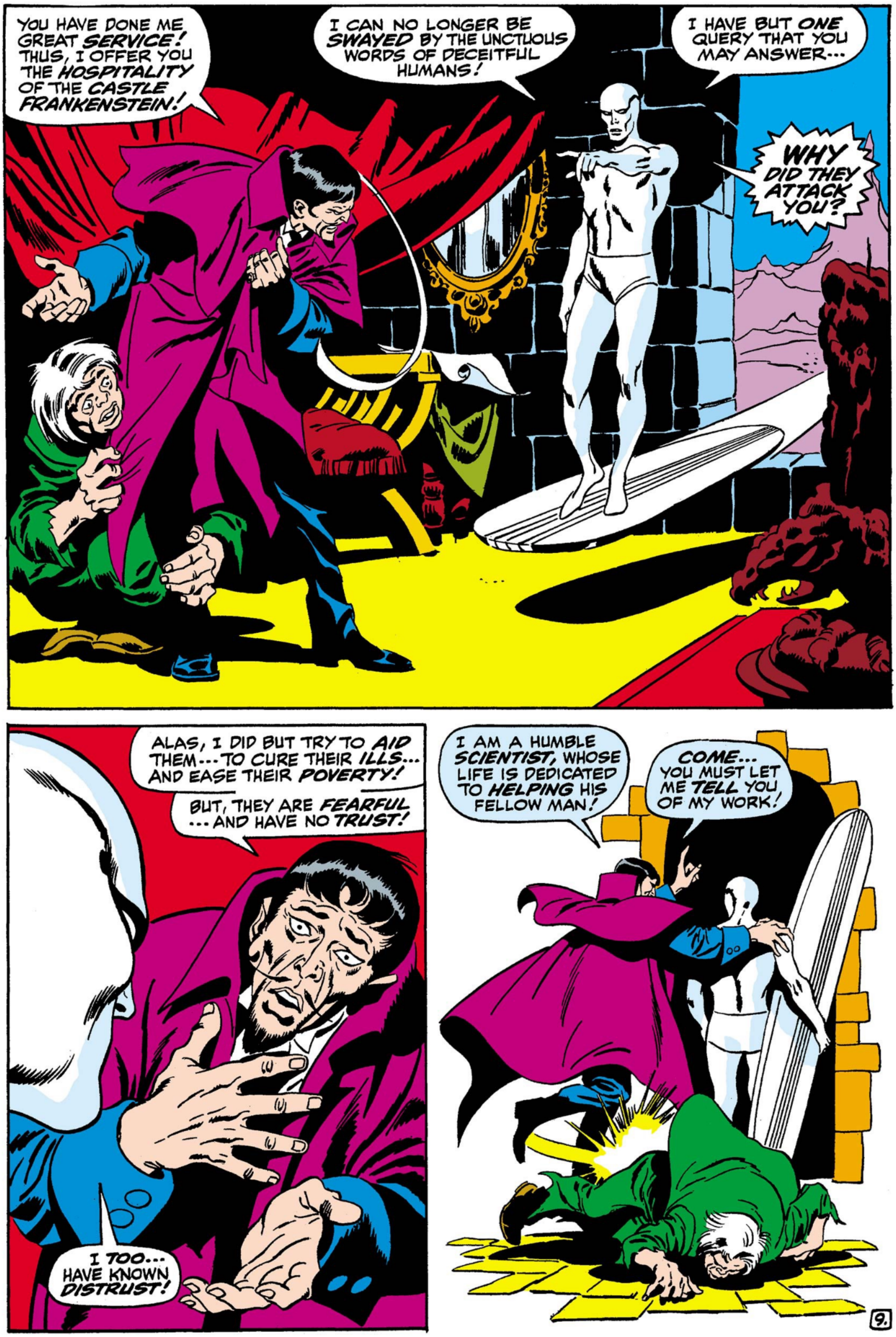

IN THE DISTANCE ...I SEE A FLAME...
BUT, IT IS WHERE NONE SHOULD BE!

MY EYES... WHICH CAN TRACK THE SMALLEST GRAIN OF SPACE DUST...
NOW SEE A CASTLE SET ON FIRE...WITH A HUMAN TRAPPED WITHIN!
AND YET...IT IS NO ACCIDENT! HE IS THE VICTIM OF A HOSTILE MOB!

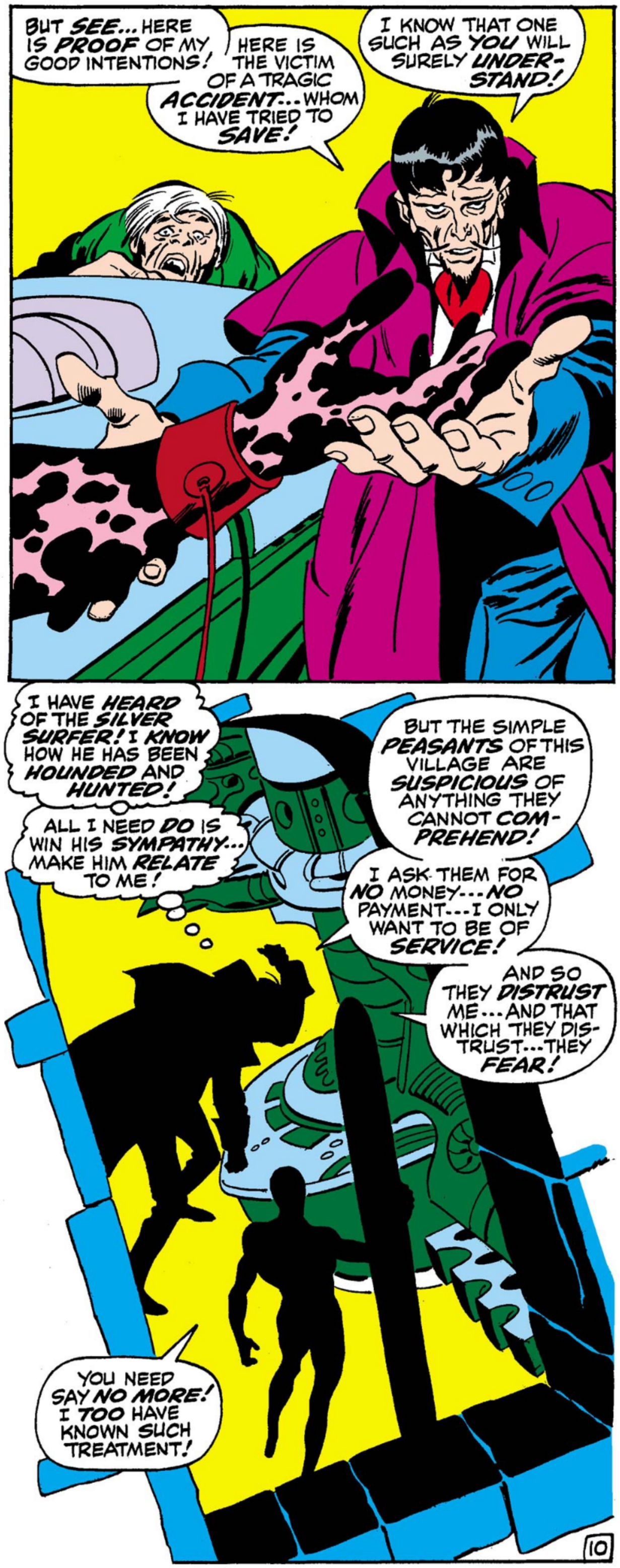
SO ONCE AGAIN I MUST BEAR WITNESS TO MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN!
YOU KNOW YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE IN THERE!
COME OUT AND FACE US!
YOU HAVEN'T ANY CHOICE!


THOSE WHO SHOW NO MERCY SHALL RECEIVE NO MERCY!
BY ALL THE LOVE OF HEAVEN...
WHAT IS THAT?!!
A FIGURE... UPON A FLYING SURFBOARD...
HE HAS EXTINGUISHED THE FLAMES... WITH JUST A GESTURE!

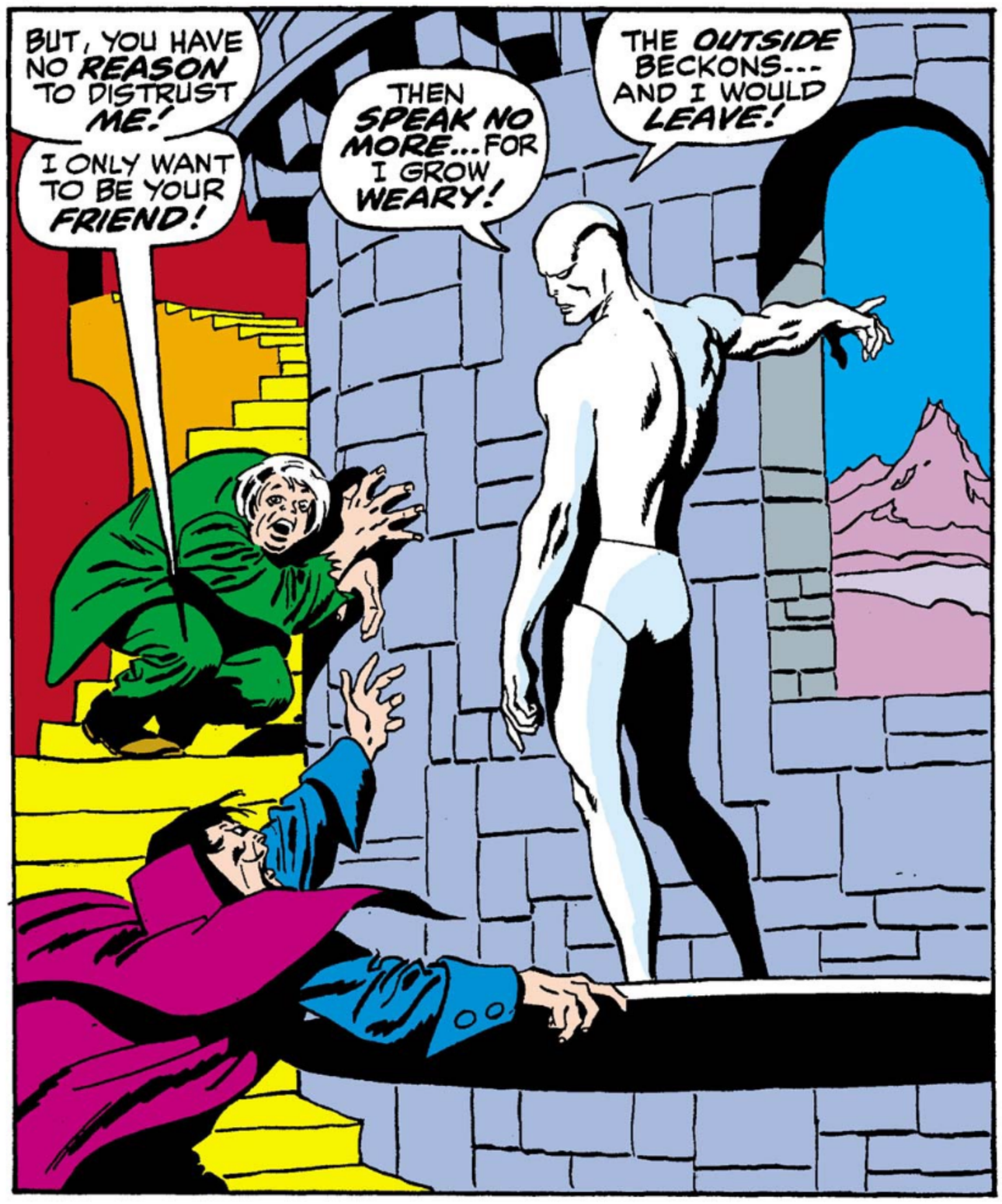

I AM THE SILVER SURFER!
I HAVE SEEN YOUR DEED... AND FIND IT EVIL!
SO, YOU MUST GO... OR ELSE REMAIN, TO FACE THE JUSTICE I DISPENSE!
HE..HE'S WORSE THAN ANYTHING FRANKENSTEIN COULD CREATE!
WE MUST FLEE... WHILE THERE STILL IS TIME!
DID YOU SEE THAT, BORGO?
DESTINY HAS DELIVERED THE ONE I SEEK!
I HAVE FOUND THE VICTIM FOR... EXPERIMENT X!
NO, MASTER... NO!
HE SOUGHT BUT TO AID YOU! HE DOES NOT DESERVE SUCH A FATE!
ANOTHER WORD, AND I SQUASH YOU LIKE A BUG!
WITH SUCH AS HE... I SHALL HUMBLE MANKIND AS MY ANCESTORS NEVER COULD!
8.

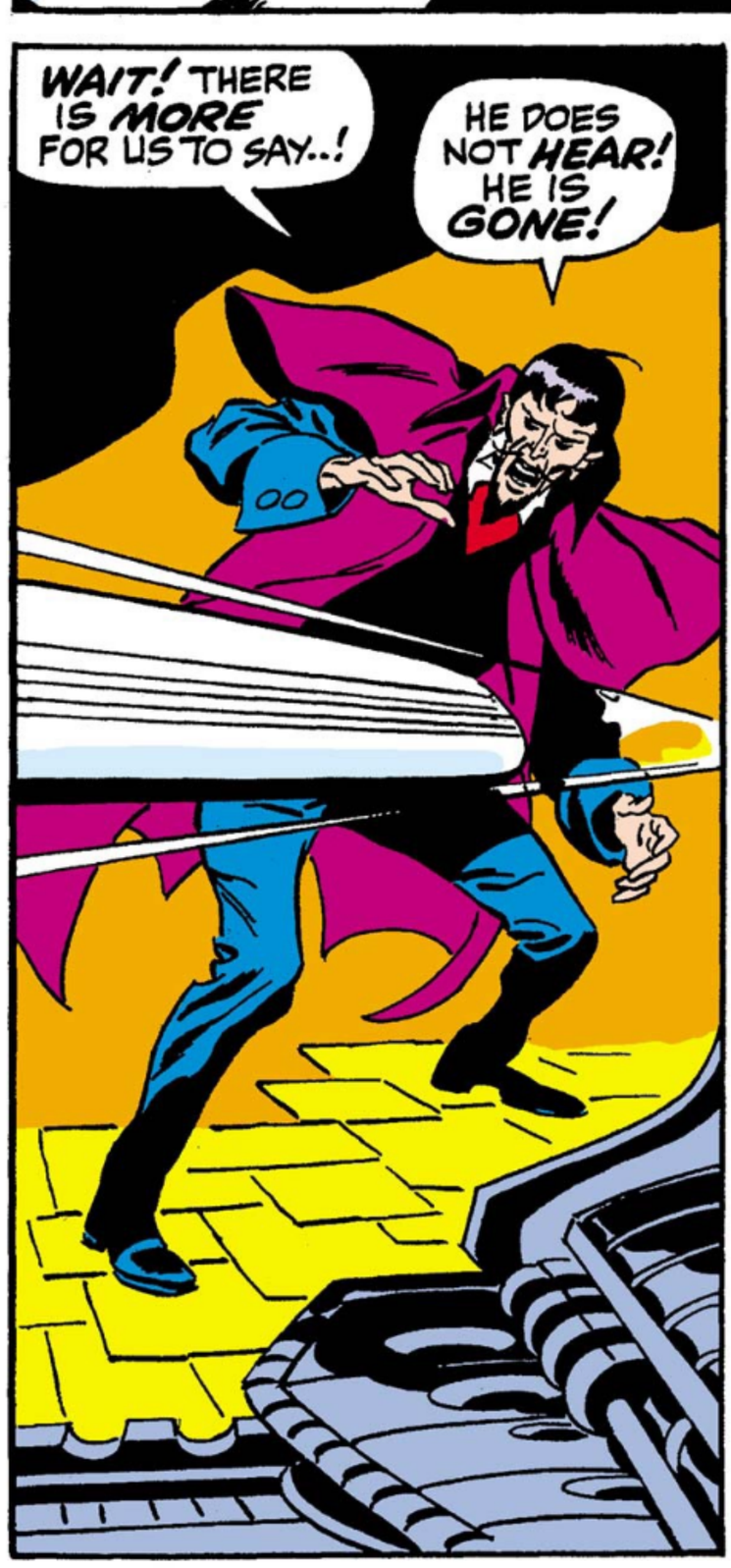

YOU HAVE DONE ME GREAT SERVICE! THUS, I OFFER YOU THE HOSPITALITY OF THE CASTLE FRANKENSTEIN!
I CAN NO LONGER BE SWAYED BY THE UNCTUOUS WORDS OF DECEITFUL HUMANS!
I HAVE BUT ONE QUERY THAT YOU MAY ANSWER...
WHY DID THEY ATTACK YOU?
ALAS, I DID BUT TRY TO AID THEM... TO CURE THEIR ILLS... AND EASE THEIR POVERTY!
BUT, THEY ARE FEARFUL ... AND HAVE NO TRUST!
I TOO... HAVE KNOWN DISTRUST!
I AM A HUMBLE SCIENTIST, WHOSE LIFE IS DEDICATED TO HELPING HIS FELLOW MAN!
COME... YOU MUST LET ME TELL YOU OF MY WORK!
9.

ONCE I KNEW A MAN...IN A CASTLE SUCH AS THIS!
I GAVE HIM MY TRUST...AND LIVED TO REGRET IT!
HE TOO SPOKE TO ME OF CHARITY!
MEN CALLED HIM...DR. DOOM!*
AND SO TAKE WARNING! I SHALL NOT LIGHTLY TRUST ANOTHER!
I WEEP FOR YOU, MY FRIEND! YOUR TALE HAS TOUCHED MY HEART!
*AS SENSATIONALLY SHOWN IN FANTASTIC FOUR #57, REMEMBER? ---STAN.

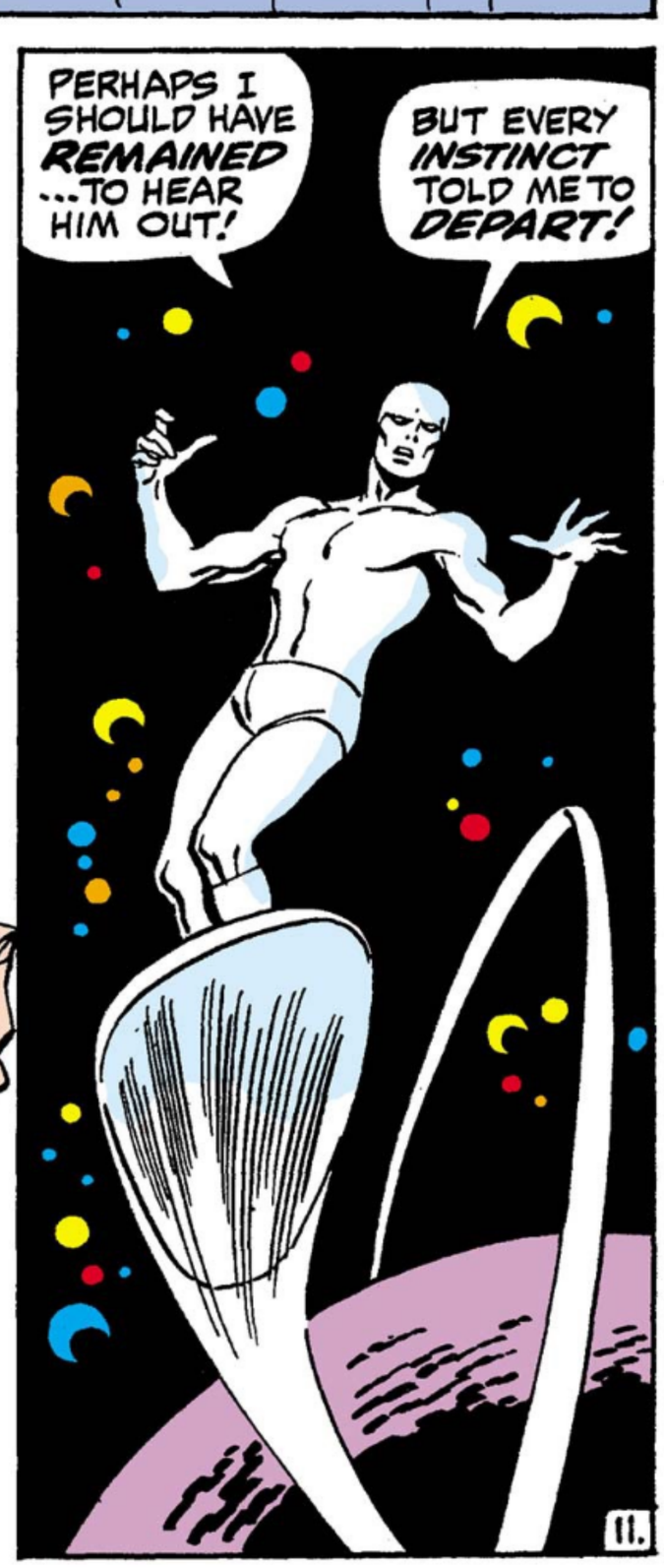

BUT SEE... HERE IS PROOF OF MY GOOD INTENTIONS!
HERE IS THE VICTIM OF A TRAGIC ACCIDENT...WHOM I HAVE TRIED TO SAVE!
I KNOW THAT ONE SUCH AS YOU WILL SURELY UNDERSTAND!
I HAVE HEARD OF THE SILVER SURFER! I KNOW HOW HE HAS BEEN HOUNDED AND HUNTED!
ALL I NEED DO IS WIN HIS SYMPATHY... MAKE HIM RELATE TO ME!
BUT THE SIMPLE PEASANTS OF THIS VILLAGE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF ANYTHING THEY CANNOT COMPREHEND!
I ASK THEM FOR NO MONEY---NO PAYMENT---I ONLY WANT TO BE OF SERVICE!
AND SO THEY DISTRUST ME---AND THAT WHICH THEY DISTRUST---THEY FEAR!
YOU NEED SAY NO MORE! I TOO HAVE KNOWN SUCH TREATMENT!

BUT, I HAVE ALSO KNOWN BETRAYAL!
I HAVE ALSO KNOWN THE WORDS OF MEN TO BE BARBED AND TWISTED!
AND SO THE SURFER LISTENS AND CONSIDERS... BUT WILL NOT LOSE HIS CAUTION!


BUT, YOU HAVE NO REASON TO DISTRUST ME!
I ONLY WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND!
THEN SPEAK NO MORE... FOR I GROW WEARY!
THE OUTSIDE BECKONS... AND I WOULD LEAVE!


WAIT! THERE IS MORE FOR US TO SAY..!
HE DOES NOT HEAR! HE IS GONE!

BUT HE SHALL RETURN!
HE SHALL YET BE THE VICTIM OF EXPERIMENT X!
BORGO! COME QUICK! THERE IS WORK TO DO!


PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE REMAINED ...TO HEAR HIM OUT!
BUT EVERY INSTINCT TOLD ME TO DEPART!

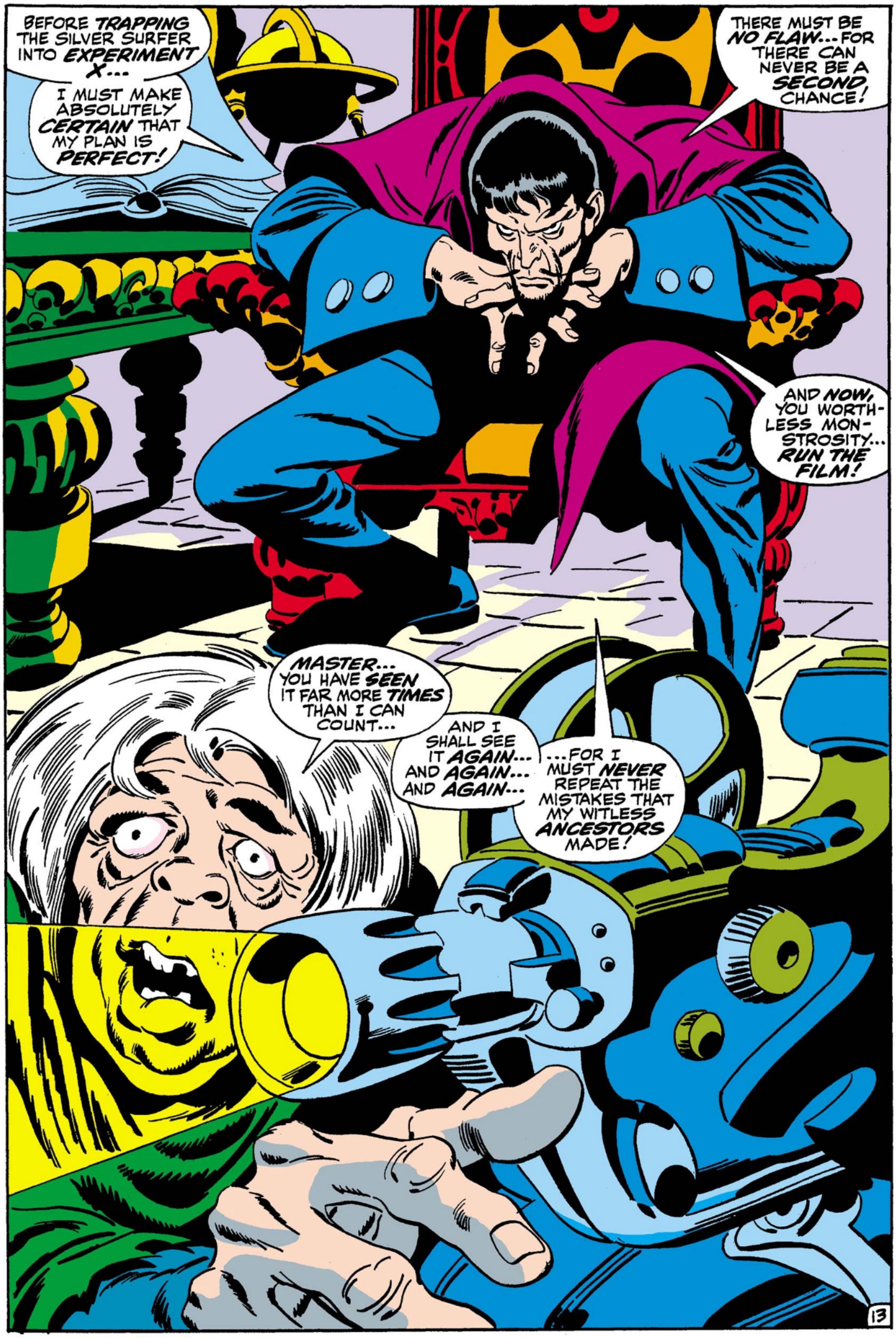
DOES MY EXILE DRIVE ME TO THE BRINK OF MADNESS?
FOR I WOULD RATHER DREAM OF THE BEAUTEOUS SHALLA BAL...

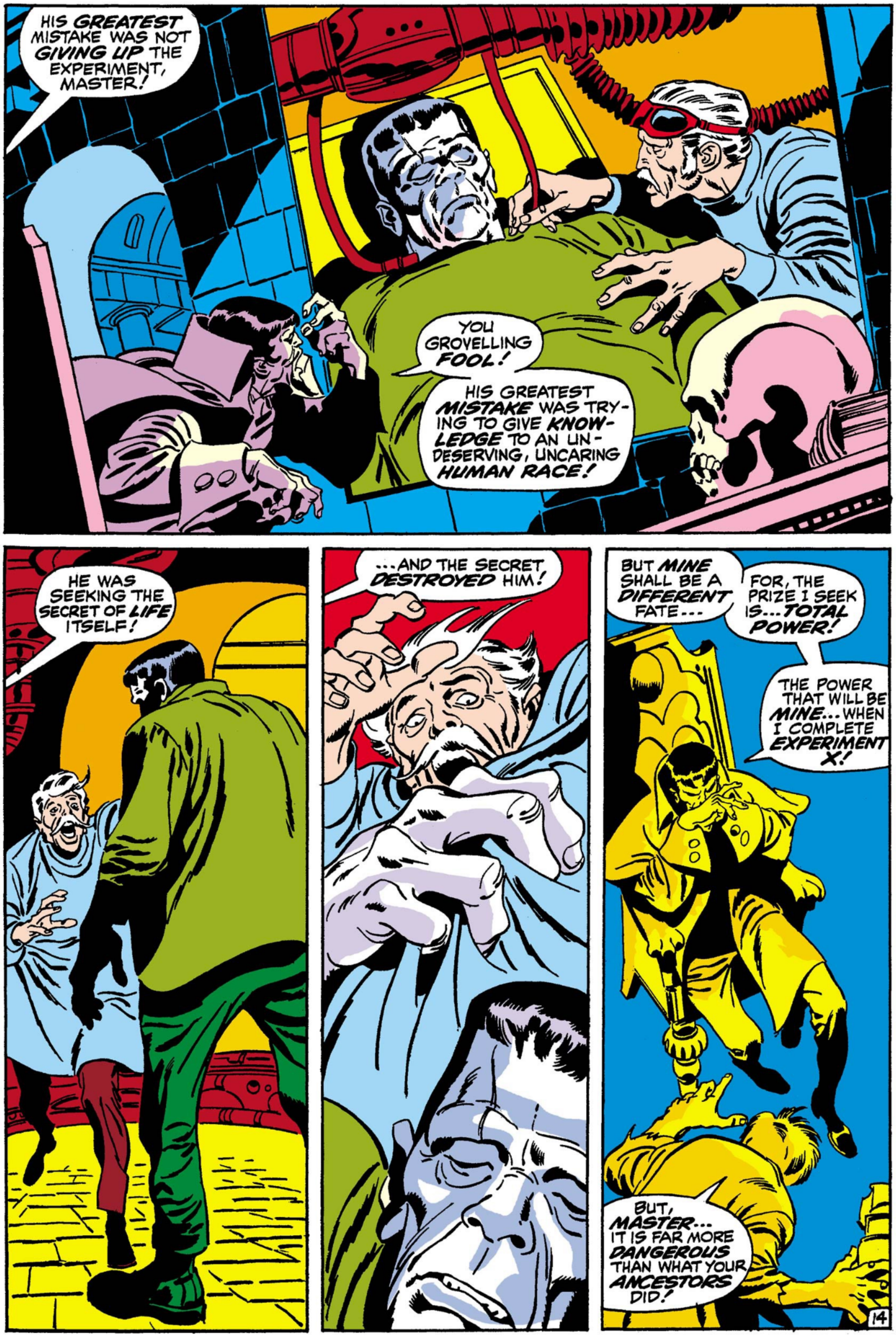
...THAN CONSORT WITH HUMANS... UPON THEIR WRETCHED EARTH!

SHALLA BAL! EACH TIME MY HUNGRY LIPS BUT SPEAK HER NAME...
MY HEART GROWS NUMB...MY SOUL TURNS ASHEN!

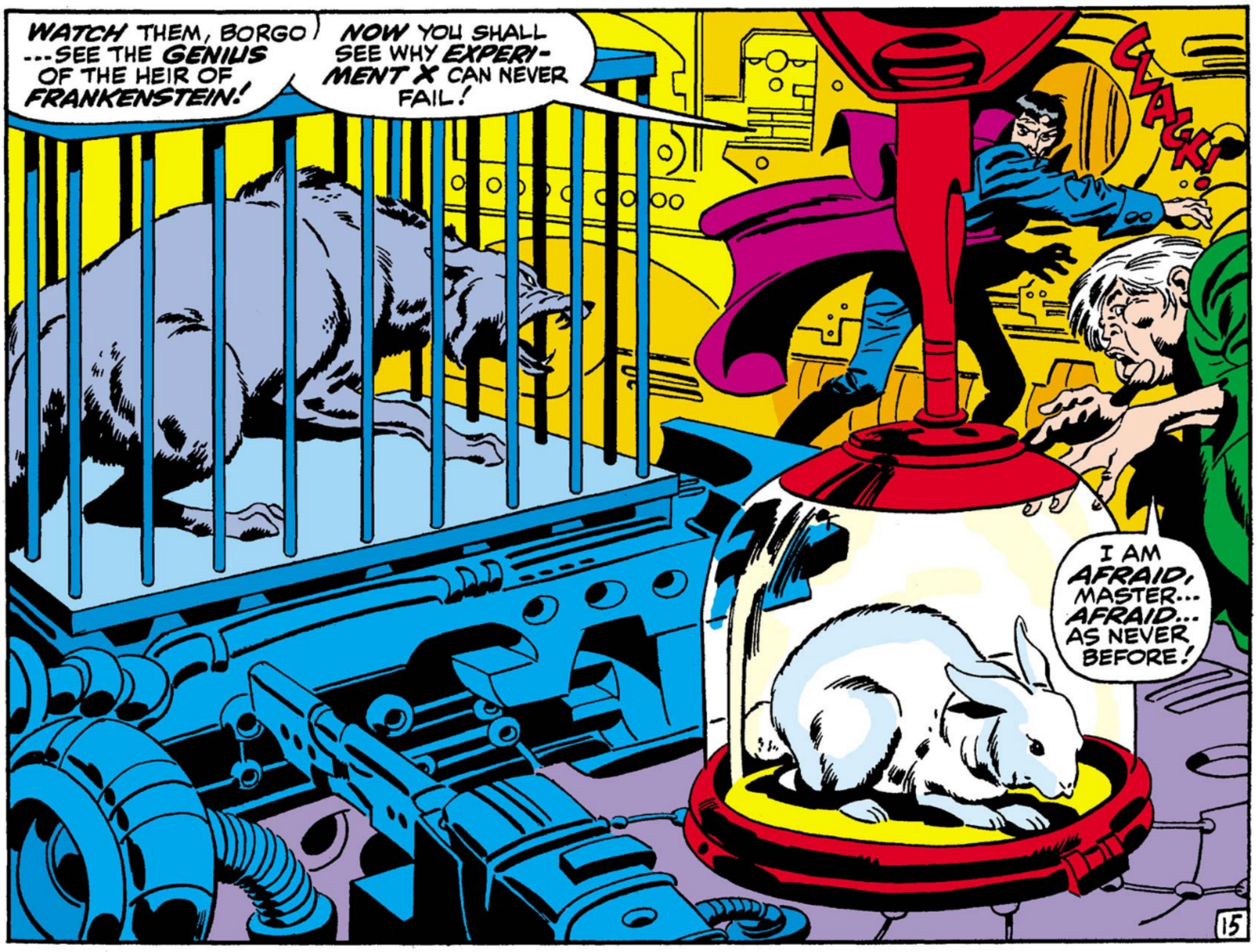
SOMEWHERE...SOMEHOW... WITHIN THE ENDLESS COSMOS... THERE MUST BE A WAY FOR ME TO REACH HER!
IF IT EXISTS... I'LL FIND IT... THOUGH I MUST SEARCH FOREVER!

AND, EVEN AS THE SILVER SURFER IS OCCUPIED WITH HIS TORTURED MUSINGS...THE MAN CALLED FRANKENSTEIN IS OCCUPIED WITH HIS...
BORGO! THE FILMS!
QUICKLY, YOU GROTESQUE NON-ENTITY!
YES, MASTER... YES! THEY ARE HERE...THEY ARE HERE!
I MUST VIEW THEM ONCE MORE!


BEFORE TRAPPING THE SILVER SURFER INTO EXPERIMENT X...
I MUST MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT MY PLAN IS PERFECT!
THERE MUST BE NO FLAW... FOR THERE CAN NEVER BE A SECOND CHANCE!
AND NOW, YOU WORTHLESS MONSTROSITY... RUN THE FILM!
MASTER... YOU HAVE SEEN IT FAR MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT...
AND I SHALL SEE IT AGAIN... AND AGAIN... AND AGAIN...
...FOR I MUST NEVER REPEAT THE MISTAKES THAT MY WITLESS ANCESTORS MADE!
13


HIS GREATEST MISTAKE WAS NOT GIVING UP THE EXPERIMENT, MASTER!
YOU GROVELLING FOOL!
HIS GREATEST MISTAKE WAS TRYING TO GIVE KNOWLEDGE TO AN UNDESERVING, UNCARING HUMAN RACE!
HE WAS SEEKING THE SECRET OF LIFE ITSELF!
...AND THE SECRET DESTROYED HIM!
BUT MINE SHALL BE A DIFFERENT FATE...
FOR, THE PRIZE I SEEK IS...TOTAL POWER!
THE POWER THAT WILL BE MINE...WHEN I COMPLETE EXPERIMENT X!
BUT, MASTER... IT IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN WHAT YOUR ANCESTORS DID!
14

OF COURSE IT IS! AND THAT IS WHY THE PRIZE IS GREATER!
COME! I SHALL GIVE THE BEASTS THEIR FINAL TEST!
A GENTLE RABBIT AND A MURDEROUS WOLF!
FIT SUBJECTS INDEED FOR WHAT I NOW MUST PROVE!

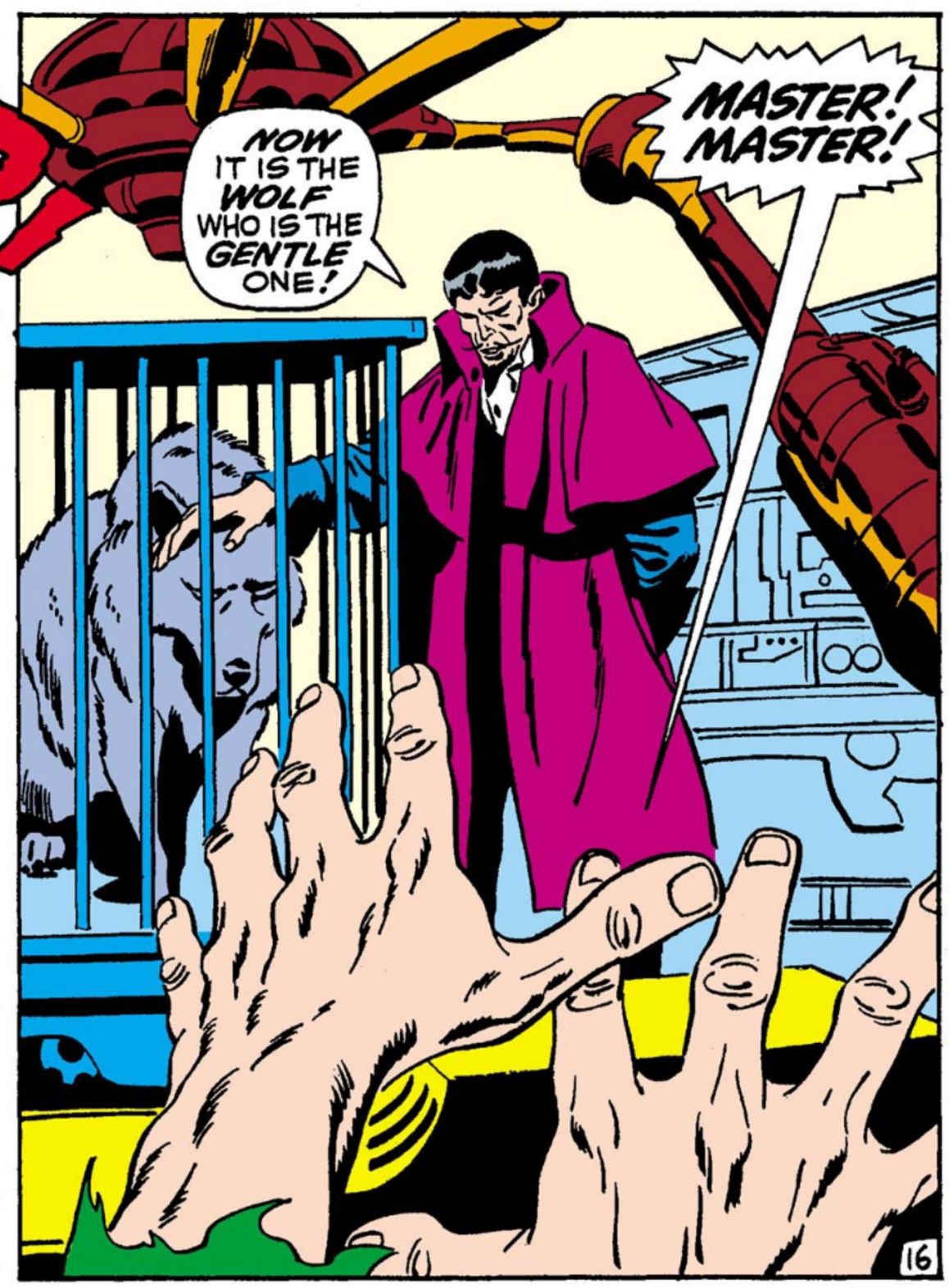

WATCH THEM, BORGO ---SEE THE GENIUS OF THE HEIR OF FRANKENSTEIN!
NOW YOU SHALL SEE WHY EXPERIMENT X CAN NEVER FAIL!
CLACK!
I AM AFRAID, MASTER... AFRAID... AS NEVER BEFORE!

AFRAID?? YOU DO NOT YET KNOW THE MEANING OF FEAR!
WATCH!! WATCH!! WATCH!!

YOU HAVE KILLED THEM BOTH! THEY ARE...ELECTROCUTED!

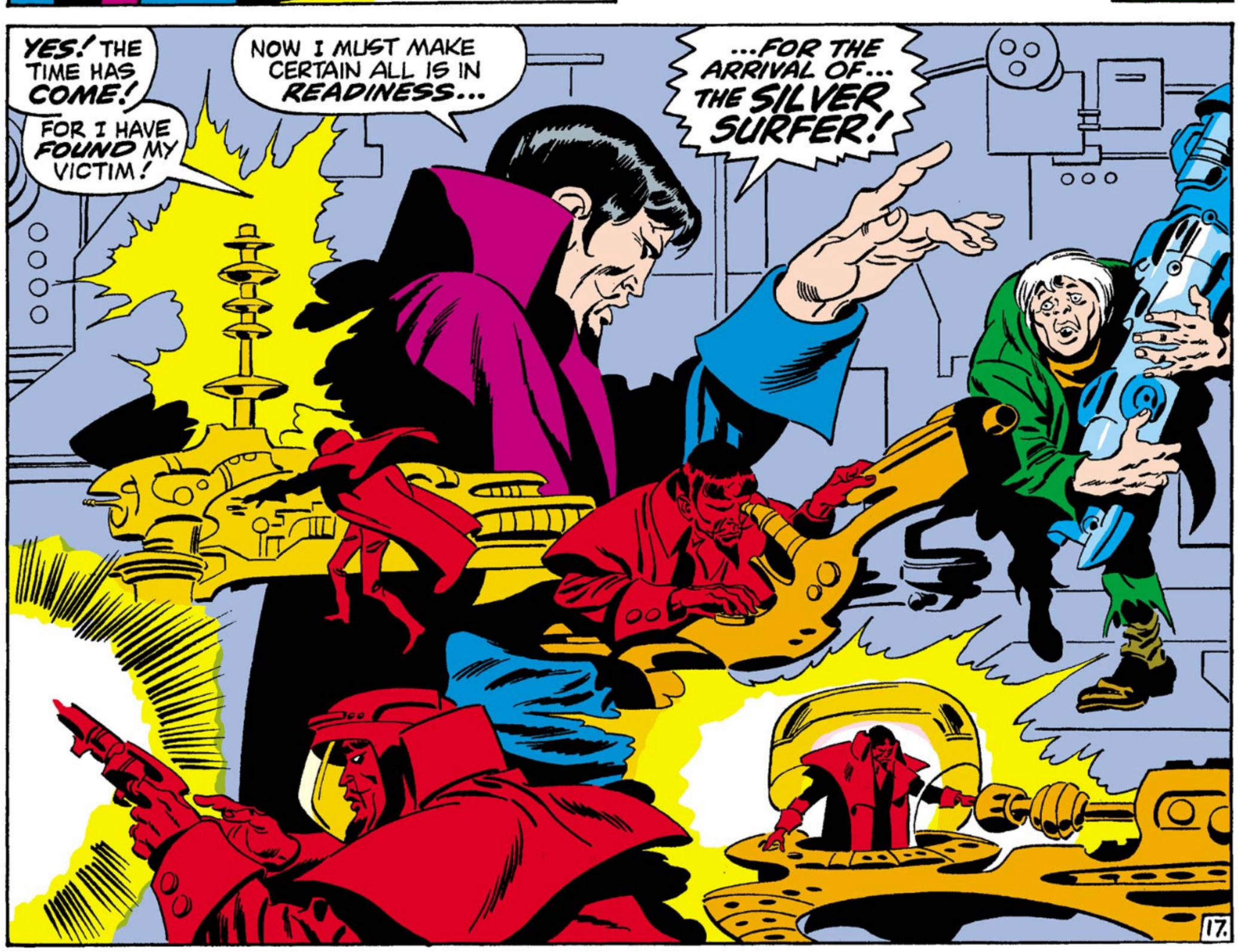
POOR LITTLE BUNNY...SO GENTLE...SO HARMLESS..!
LET IT ALONE, YOU FOOL! DO NOT TOUCH IT!

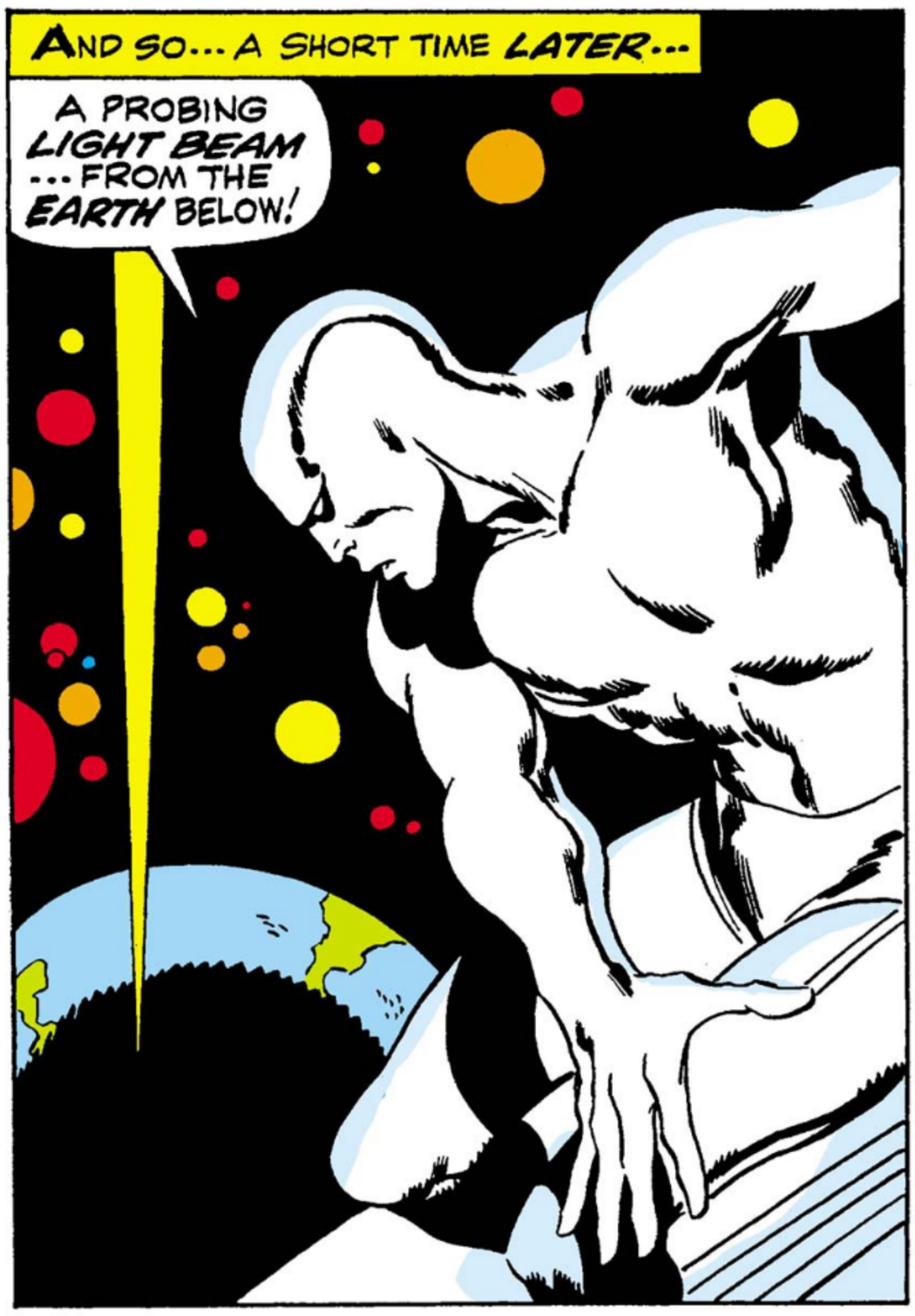
I WARNED YOU!!
GROWWR!
MASTER ...HELP ME!

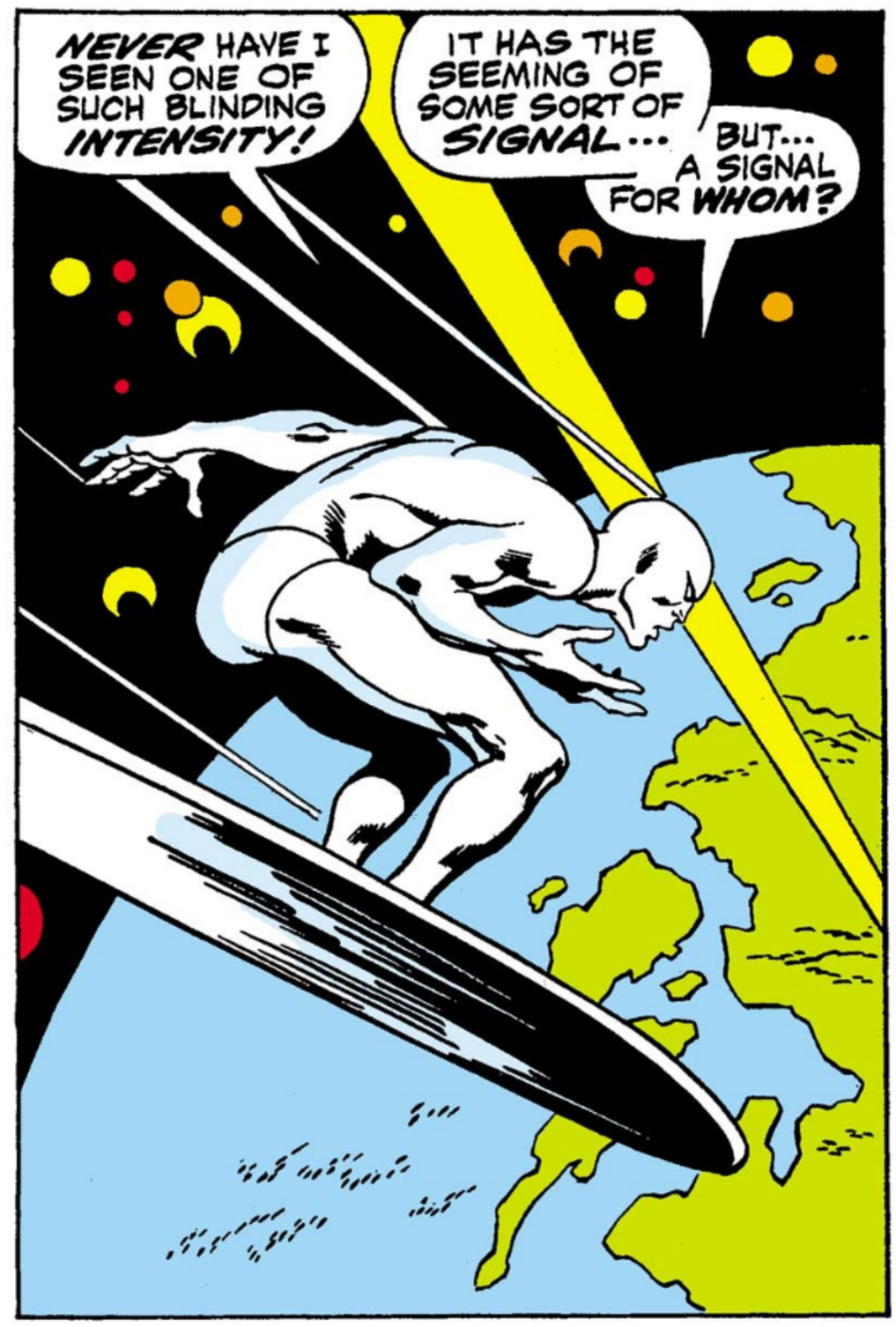

NOW IT IS THE WOLF WHO IS THE GENTLE ONE!
MASTER! MASTER!

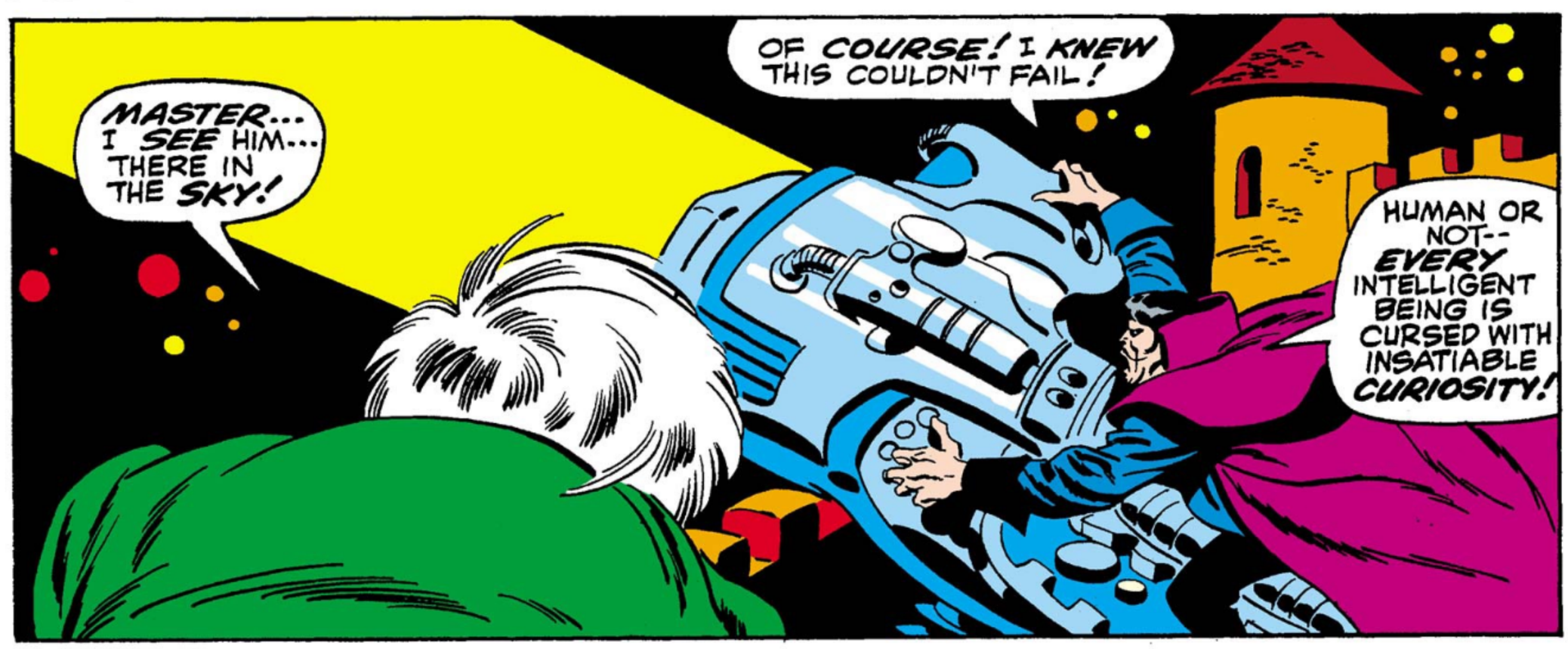
YOU ARE NOT WORTH THE FIRING OF A SINGLE BLAST!
BUT, BECAUSE I AM MERCIFUL ... I SHALL SAVE YOU!
THP-N!

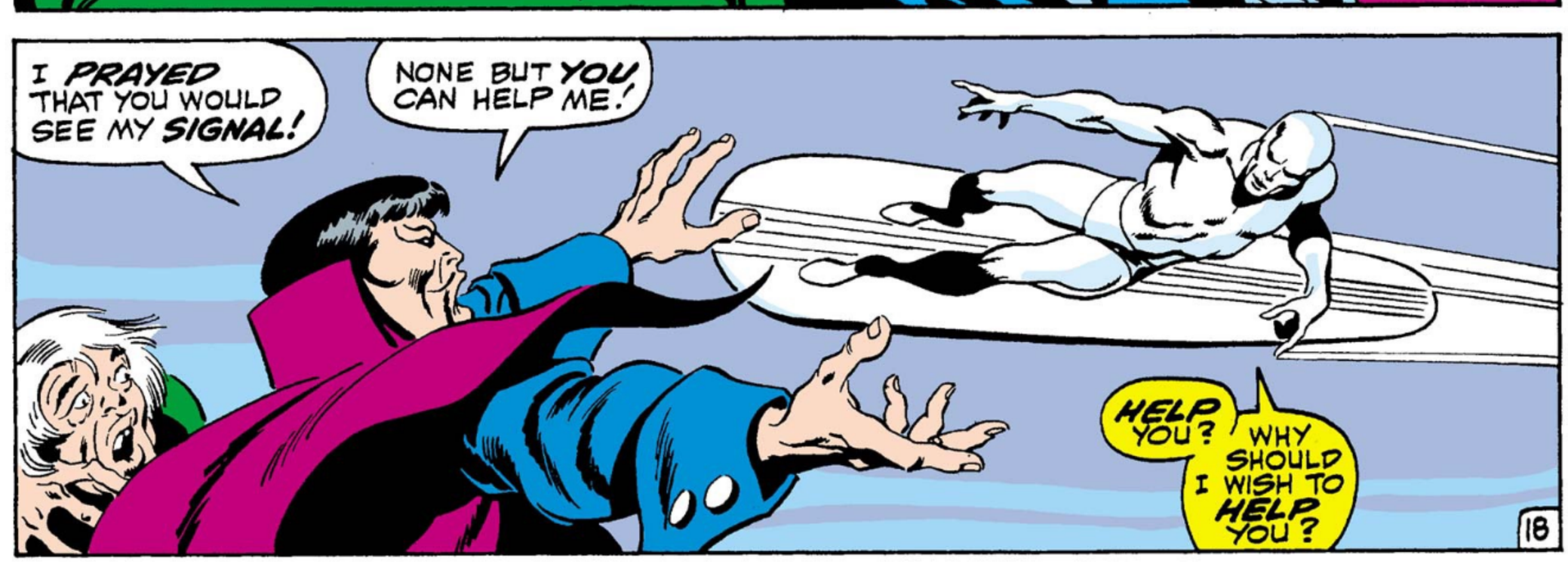
MERCIFUL? YOU KNOW NOT THE MEANING OF THE WORD!
NONE WOULD SERVE YOU AS FAITHFULLY AS I! NONE WOULD BEAR YOUR TAUNTS...YOUR TYRANNY AS I DO!
THAT... AND THAT ALONE... IS WHY YOU SAVED ME, MASTER!
BAH! I HAVE NO PATIENCE FOR YOUR MINDLESS PRATTLE!
PREPARE THE LABORATORY!
THEN... THE TIME... HAS FINALLY COME?

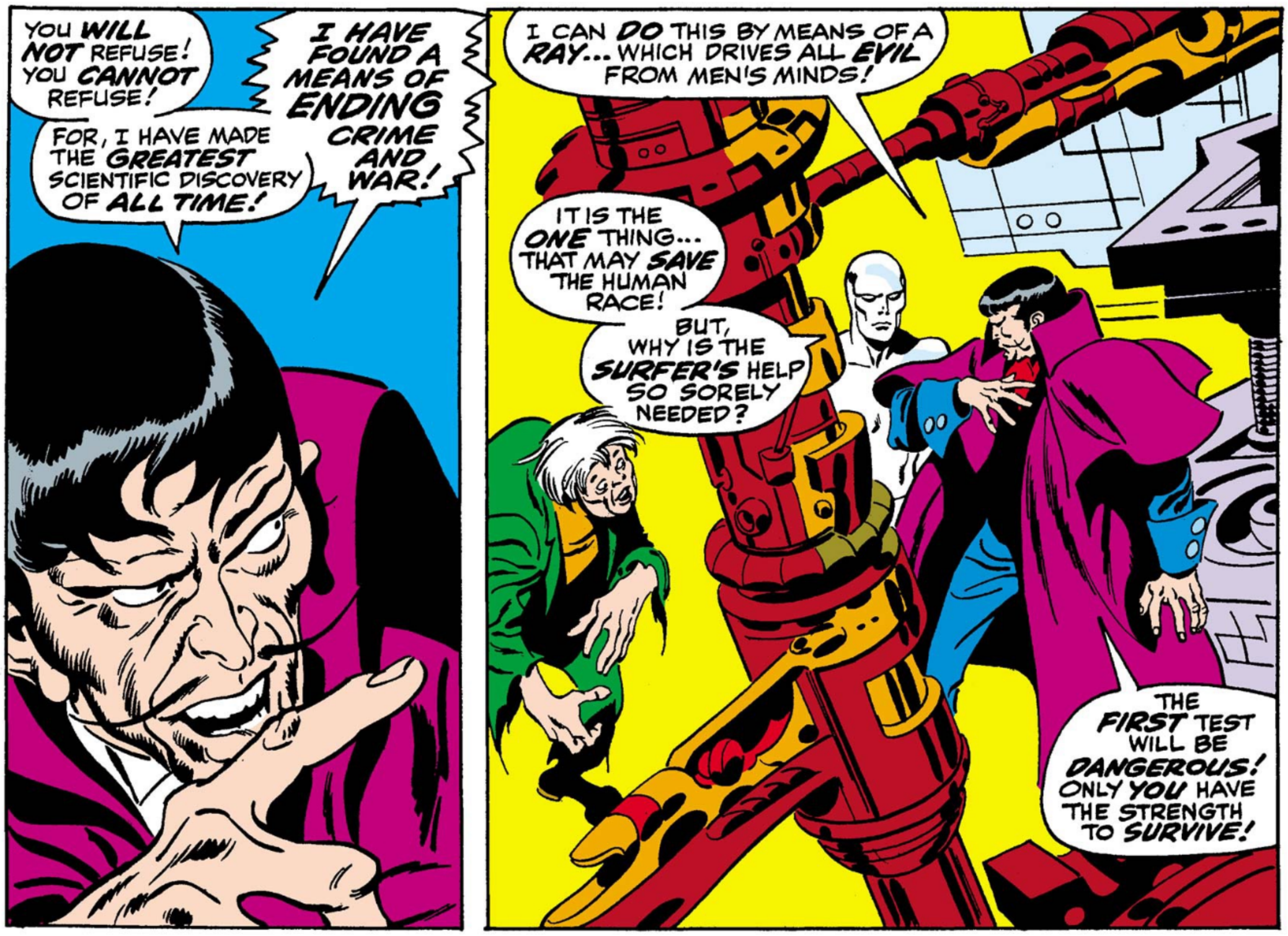

YES! THE TIME HAS COME!
FOR I HAVE FOUND MY VICTIM!
NOW I MUST MAKE CERTAIN ALL IS IN READINESS...
...FOR THE ARRIVAL OF... THE SILVER SURFER!


AND SO... A SHORT TIME LATER...
A PROBING LIGHT BEAM ...FROM THE EARTH BELOW!

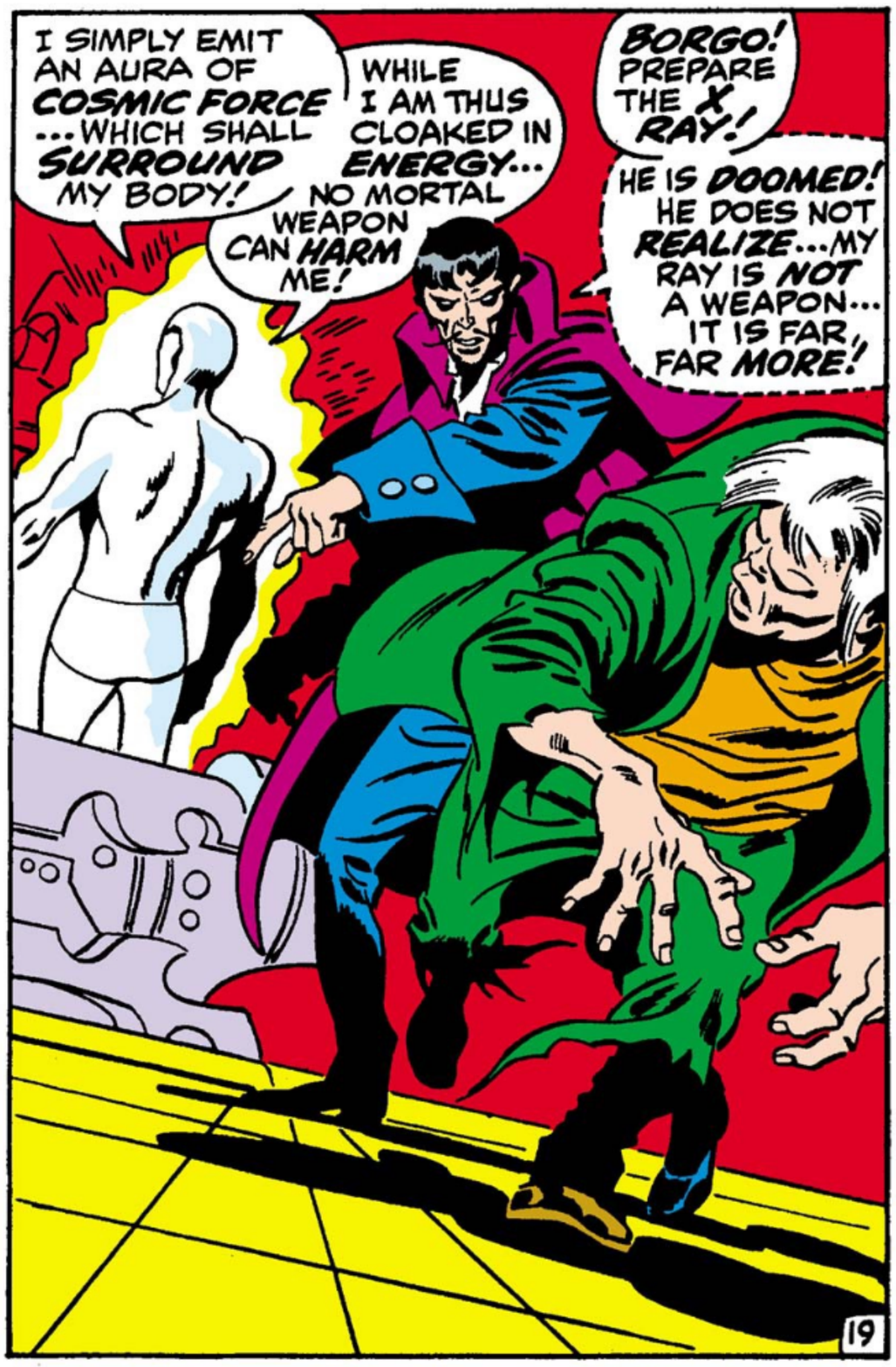

NEVER HAVE I SEEN ONE OF SUCH BLINDING INTENSITY!
IT HAS THE SEEMING OF SOME SORT OF SIGNAL...
BUT... A SIGNAL FOR WHOM?


MASTER... I SEE HIM... THERE IN THE SKY!
OF COURSE! I KNEW THIS COULDN'T FAIL!
HUMAN OR NOT-- EVERY INTELLIGENT BEING IS CURSED WITH INSATIABLE CURIOSITY!


I PRAYED THAT YOU WOULD SEE MY SIGNAL!
NONE BUT YOU CAN HELP ME!
HELP YOU?
WHY SHOULD I WISH TO HELP YOU?


YOU WILL NOT REFUSE! YOU CANNOT REFUSE!
FOR, I HAVE MADE THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY OF ALL TIME!
I HAVE FOUND A MEANS OF ENDING CRIME AND WAR!
I CAN DO THIS BY MEANS OF A RAY... WHICH DRIVES ALL EVIL FROM MEN'S MINDS!
IT IS THE ONE THING... THAT MAY SAVE THE HUMAN RACE!
BUT, WHY IS THE SURFER'S HELP SO SORELY NEEDED?
THE FIRST TEST WILL BE DANGEROUS! ONLY YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO SURVIVE!

THEN, AFTER USING MY RAY ON YOU... I'LL KNOW EXACTLY HOW POTENT TO MAKE IT... FOR WEAKER MEN!
I STILL DO NOT TRUST YOU... BUT I SHALL NOT WITHHOLD MY AID!
HOWEVER, I WILL TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT MYSELF!
PROTECT YOURSELF?


I SIMPLY EMIT AN AURA OF COSMIC FORCE ...WHICH SHALL SURROUND MY BODY!
WHILE I AM THUS CLOAKED IN ENERGY... NO MORTAL WEAPON CAN HARM ME!
BORGO! PREPARE THE X RAY!
HE IS DOOMED! HE DOES NOT REALIZE... MY RAY IS NOT A WEAPON... IT IS FAR, FAR MORE!

HE CANNOT HEAR ME NOW!
HE WILL NEVER KNOW ...MY X RAY IS A DUPLICATOR!
IT ALLOWS ME TO DUPLICATE ONE LIVING BEING'S POWERS IN ANOTHER!
THUS, I SHALL CREATE A NEW SYNTHETIC MAN... A DUPLICATE OF THE SILVER SURFER---BUT UNDER MY CONTROL!
AND I'LL DO IT WITHOUT A WEAPON...SO HIS COSMIC PROTECTION IS MEANINGLESS!
MY ANCESTORS SOUGHT TO BRING A BODY BACK TO LIFE...
BUT I SHALL CREATE NEW LIFE IN A BLOB OF LIFELESS CLAY!
FOR I AM THE GREATEST FRANKENSTEIN OF ALL!
I SENSE THAT THERE IS EVIL AFOOT...AND YET, I MUST LEARN ITS NATURE!
WHATEVER BEFALLS, SURELY MY POWER SHALL SUSTAIN ME!
BORGO... LOOK! THE LIFELESS CLAY IS TAKING SHAPE!
AND, AS HE LIVES... THE SURFER SHALL DIE!

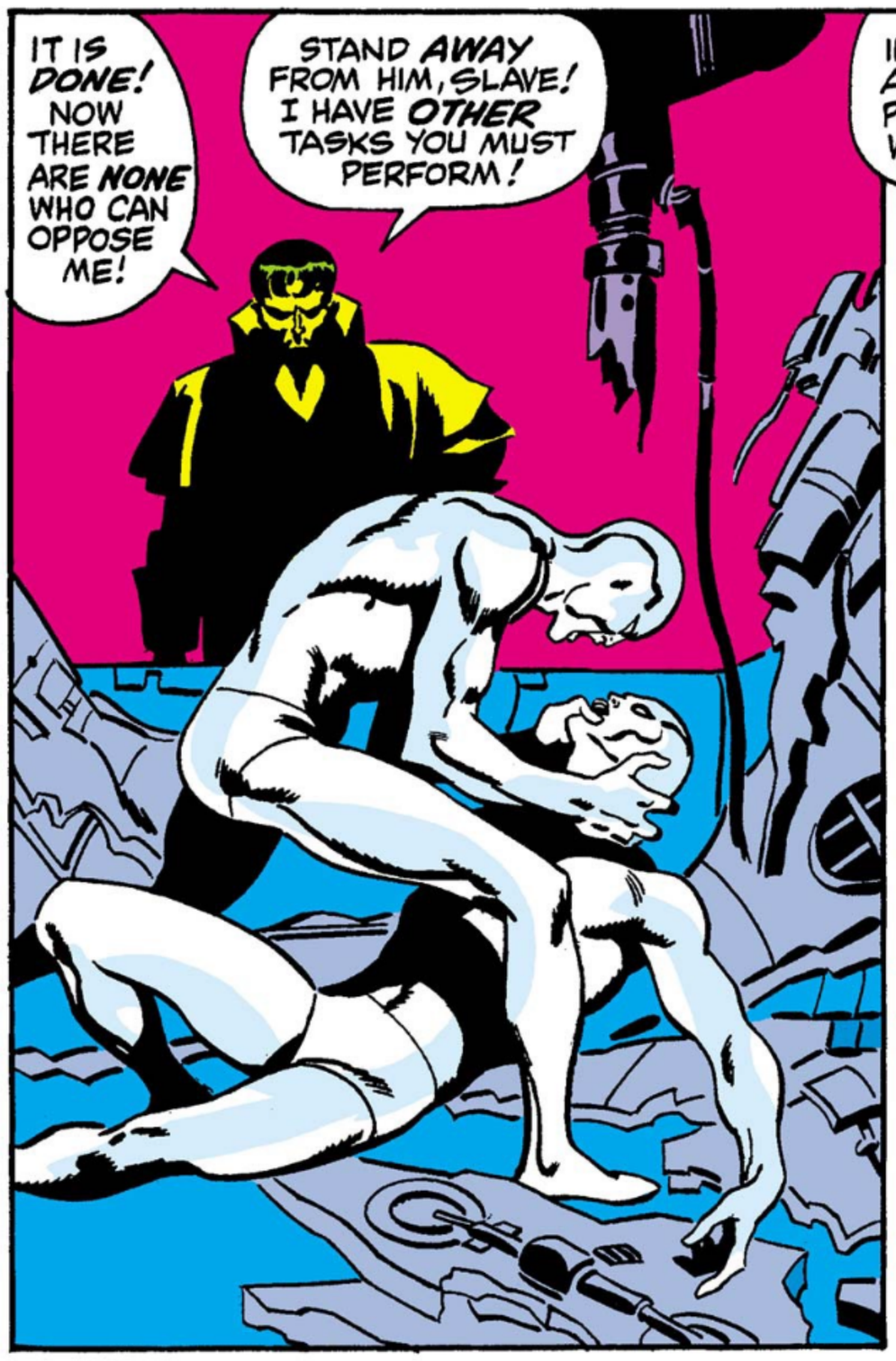
MORE POWER!! HE MUST HAVE STILL MORE POWER!
HE LIVES! HE LIVES!
MASTER! THE REAL SURFER STIRS!
MY TORTURED SENSES TELL ME--
ONCE AGAIN I HAVE BEEN BETRAYED!
I MUST BREAK FREE ...BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
AND, BREAK FREE HE DOES...
...WITH A DAZZLING, DEAFENING COSMIC BLAST..!!

I FELT MY POWER WANING!
IN SOME STRANGE MANNER, YOU SOUGHT TO DESTROY ME!
I DID FAR MORE THAN SEEK...

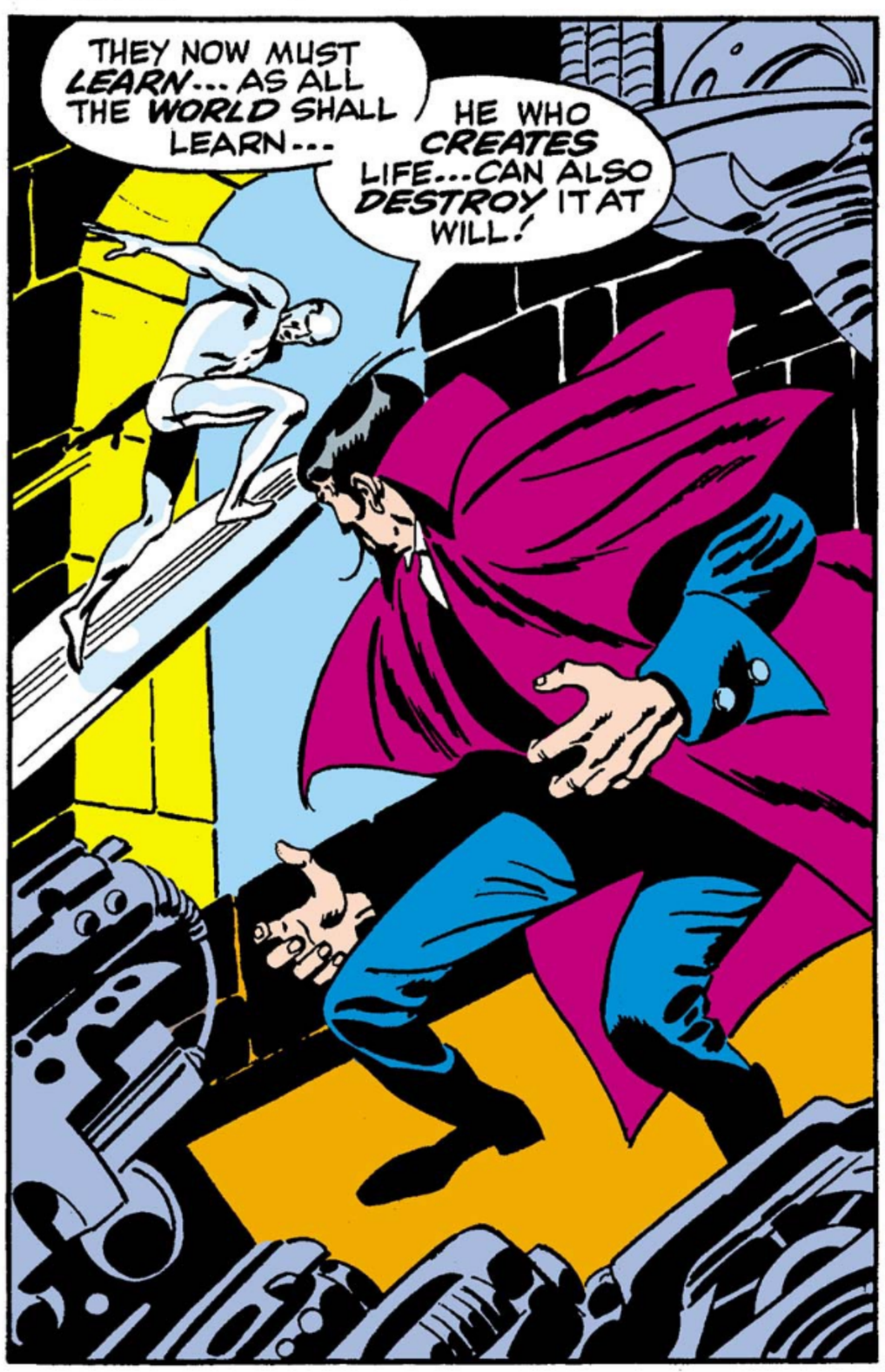
I HAVE SUCCEEDED... EVEN BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS!
I HAVE OUT-DONE THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE ME... THOSE WHO BORE THE NAME I BEAR!
I HAVE CREATED LIFE... WHERE THERE WAS NO LIFE!
IT... CANNOT BE! A LIVING REPLICA... OF MYSELF!

MORE THAN JUST A REPLICA!
HE IS YOUR EQUAL IN POWER... IN STRENGTH! BUT, EVEN BETTER...
HE IS MINE TO COMMAND!
AND I COMMAND HIM NOW...

...TO SLAY THE SILVER SURFER!


IT IS DONE! NOW THERE ARE NONE WHO CAN OPPOSE ME!
STAND AWAY FROM HIM, SLAVE! I HAVE OTHER TASKS YOU MUST PERFORM!

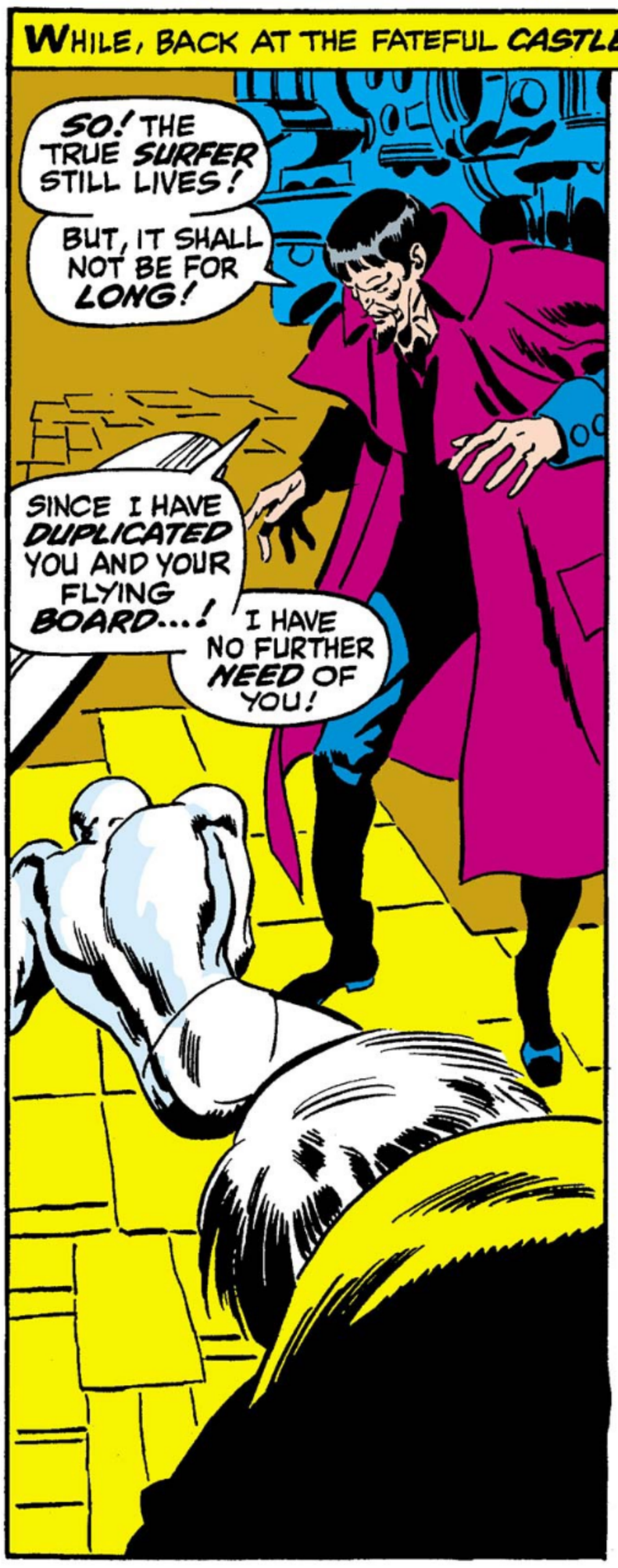
IN THE VALLEY BELOW, A VILLAGE LIES... PEOPLED WITH THOSE WHO HATE AND FEAR ME!
YOU MUST SHOW THEM THAT I AM MASTER HERE...YOU MUST TEACH THEM THE MEANING OF FEAR!

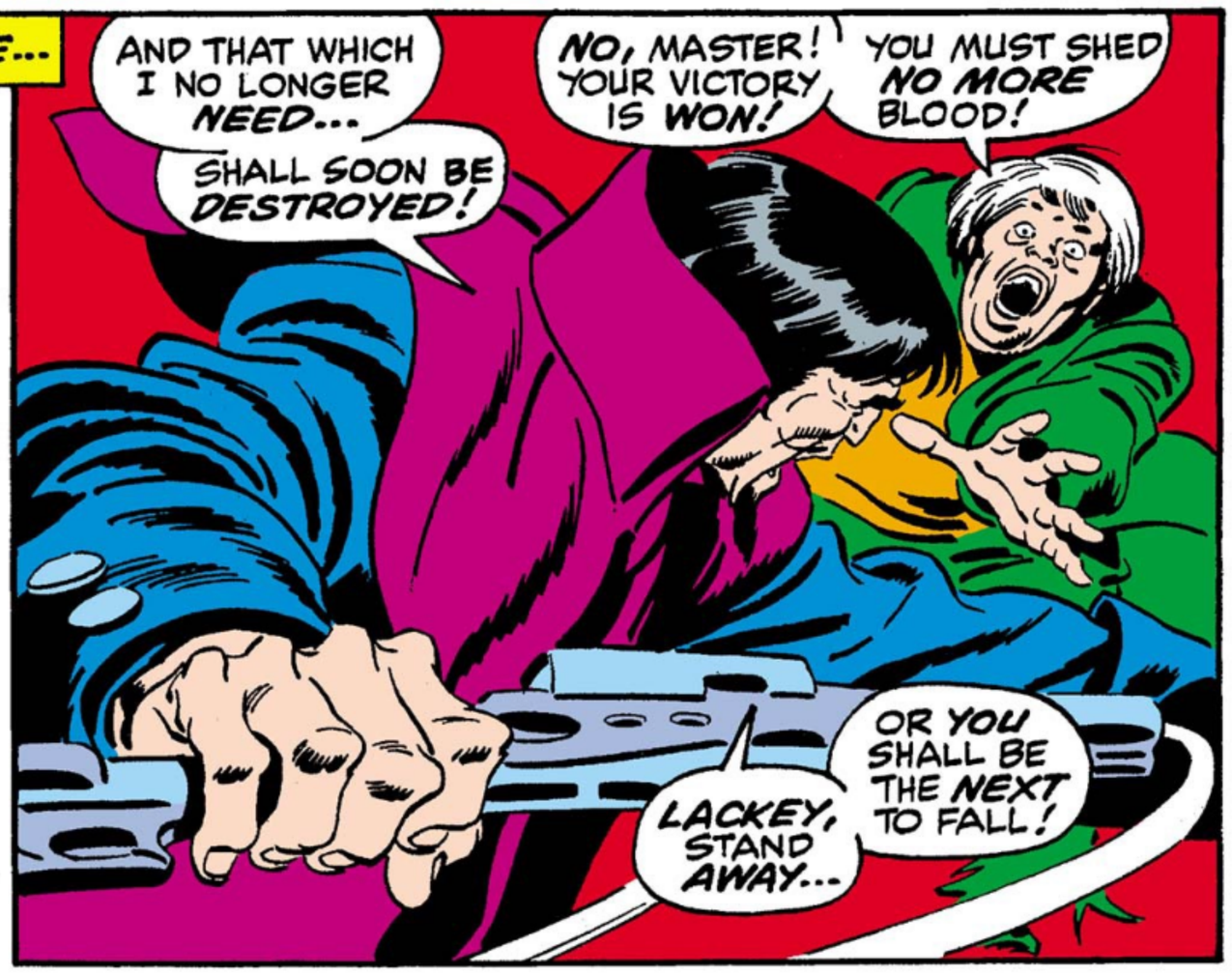

THEY NOW MUST LEARN... AS ALL THE WORLD SHALL LEARN...
HE WHO CREATES LIFE...CAN ALSO DESTROY IT AT WILL!

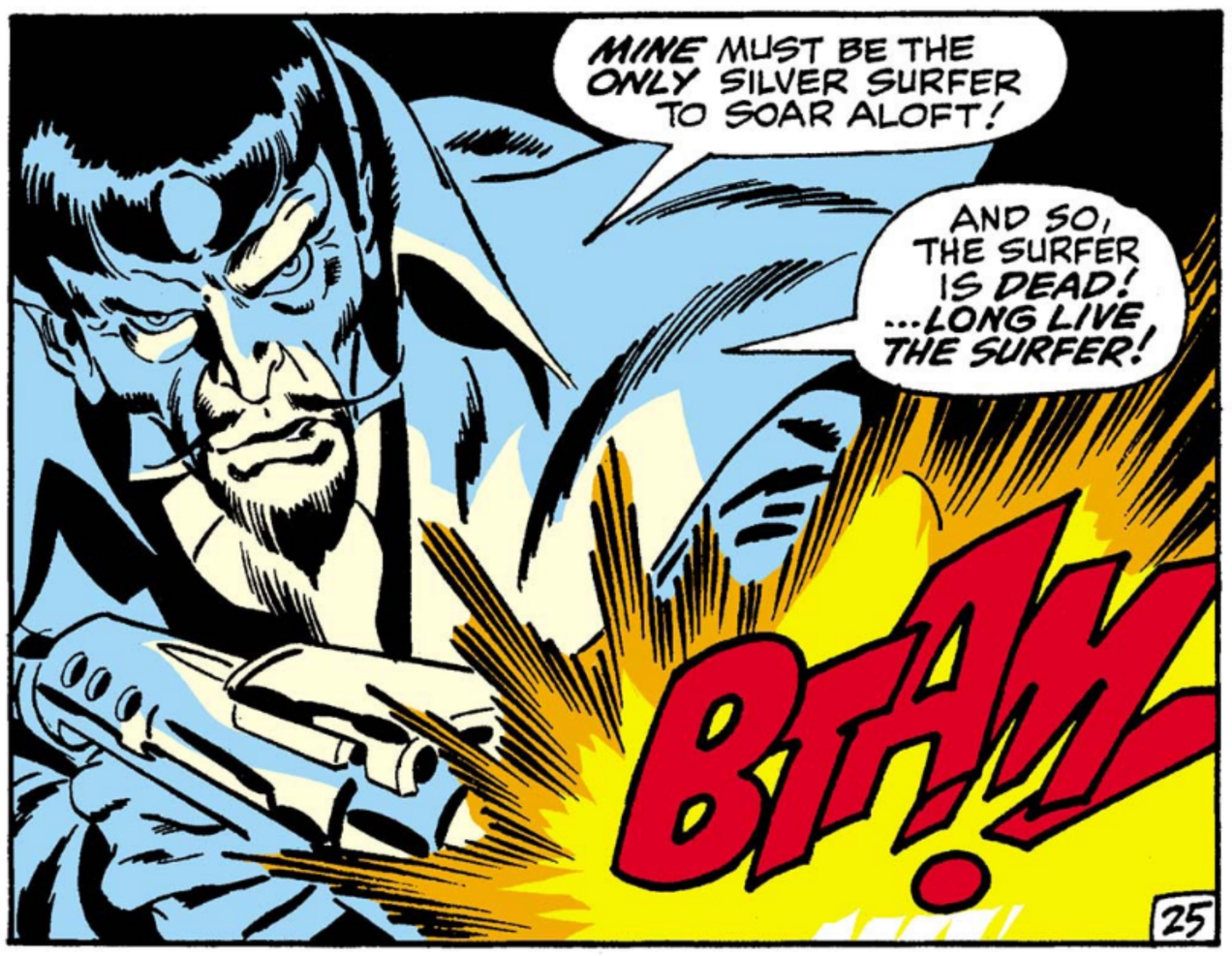
BEHOLD... IN THE SKY ABOVE US...
HE...WHO CALLED HIMSELF THE SILVER SURFER!
HE HURTLES DOWN FROM ON HIGH..WITH A LOOK OF HATRED ON HIS FACE!

LET ALL BE MOTIONLESS!
I BRING A MESSAGE FROM MY MASTER...
FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH, FRANKENSTEIN'S WILL IS YOURS!
ESCAPE IS IMPOSSIBLE! MY BOLTS CAN HALT YOU IN YOUR TRACKS!
YOUR LIVES HAVE NO MEANING!
THOSE WHO DO NOT CHOOSE TO SERVE... MUST QUICKLY PERISH!
I... WHO WAS NOTHING... NOW SPEAK FOR ONE WHO IS SUPREME!
YOU... WHO WERE HUMANS... SHALL SOON BE LESS THAN NOTHING!
THE POWER IS MINE! ONLY THE BONDAGE SHALL BE YOURS!
24

EVEN AS YOU STAND... UNABLE TO MOVE... YOU CAN FEEL THE COSMIC ENERGY CRACKLING ABOUT YOU!
THE ENERGY WHICH SHALL CONQUER A WORLD... FOR FRANKENSTEIN!


WHILE, BACK AT THE FATEFUL CASTLE...
SO! THE TRUE SURFER STILL LIVES!
BUT, IT SHALL NOT BE FOR LONG!
SINCE I HAVE DUPLICATED YOU AND YOUR FLYING BOARD...!
I HAVE NO FURTHER NEED OF YOU!

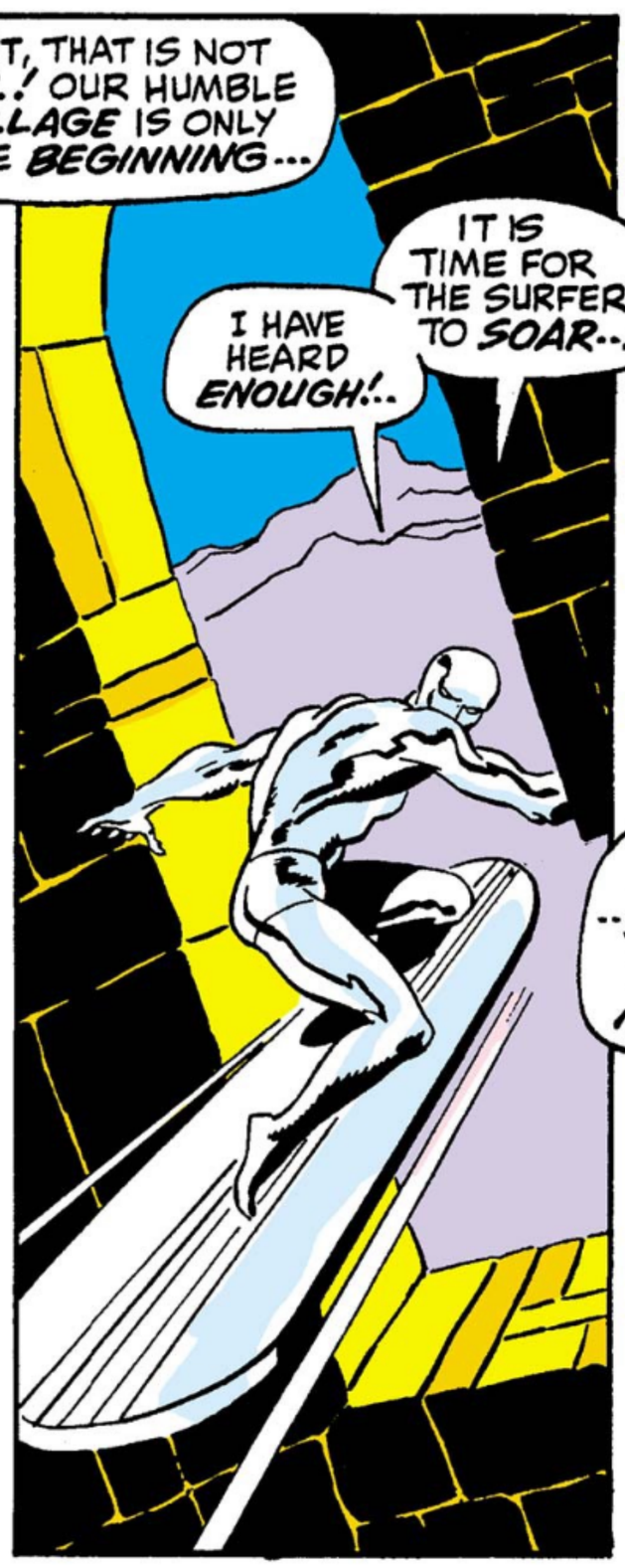

AND THAT WHICH I NO LONGER NEED...
SHALL SOON BE DESTROYED!
NO, MASTER! YOUR VICTORY IS WON!
YOU MUST SHED NO MORE BLOOD!
LACKEY, STAND AWAY...
OR YOU SHALL BE THE NEXT TO FALL!

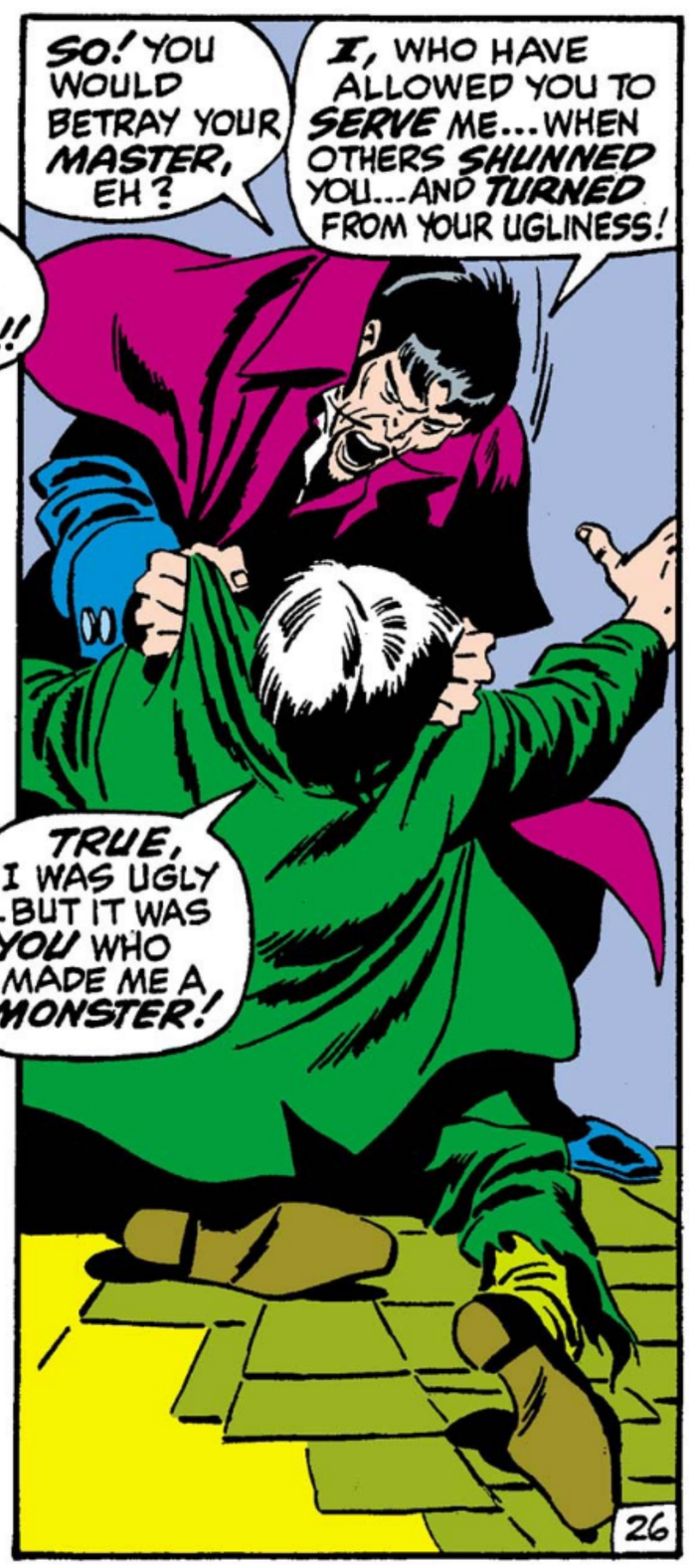

MINE MUST BE THE ONLY SILVER SURFER TO SOAR ALOFT!
AND SO, THE SURFER IS DEAD! ...LONG LIVE THE SURFER!
BFA!M

MURDERER... YOU HAVE HAD YOUR MOMENT!
NOW I SHALL HAVE MINE!
YOU... YOU STILL LIVE!

NO MERE FIREARM CAN FELL THE SILVER SURFER!
BUT, THERE IS ONE WHOM YOU CREATED... THAT I MUST FIND!
I MUST KNOW HIS POWER... AND HIS PURPOSE ...BEFORE HE THREATENS EARTH!
NEVER! I WILL TELL YOU NOTHING! NOTHING!
BUT I WILL TELL!
PERHAPS MY WORDS CAN END THIS MADNESS!

HE HAS GONE TO THE VALLEY... TO BRING FEAR TO THE VILLAGERS!
HE WILL MAKE THEM PAY FOR OPPOSING MY MASTER!


BUT, THAT IS NOT ALL! OUR HUMBLE VILLAGE IS ONLY THE BEGINNING...
I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH!..
IT IS TIME FOR THE SURFER TO SOAR..!!

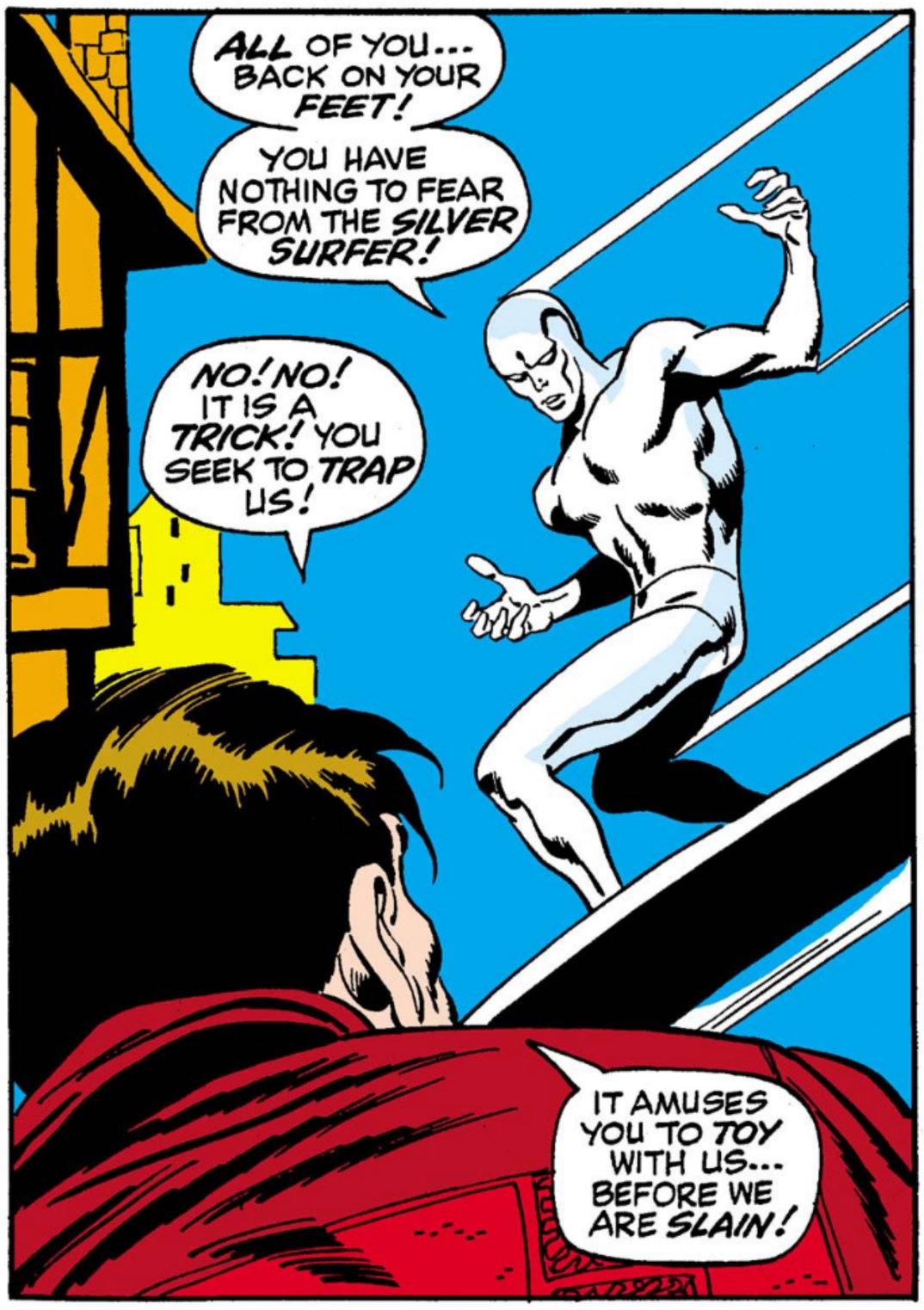

SO! YOU WOULD BETRAY YOUR MASTER, EH?
I, WHO HAVE ALLOWED YOU TO SERVE ME... WHEN OTHERS SHUNNED YOU... AND TURNED FROM YOUR UGLINESS!
TRUE, I WAS UGLY ...BUT IT WAS YOU WHO MADE ME A MONSTER!

BEFORE YOU FOUND ME, I WAS MIS-SHAPEN IN FORM...
BUT, I HAD A CONSCIENCE ...I HAD A SOUL!
NOW, I AM LEFT WITH... UNNHH!
ENOUGH! ONLY MY BURNING HATRED FOR YOU KEEPS YOU ALIVE!

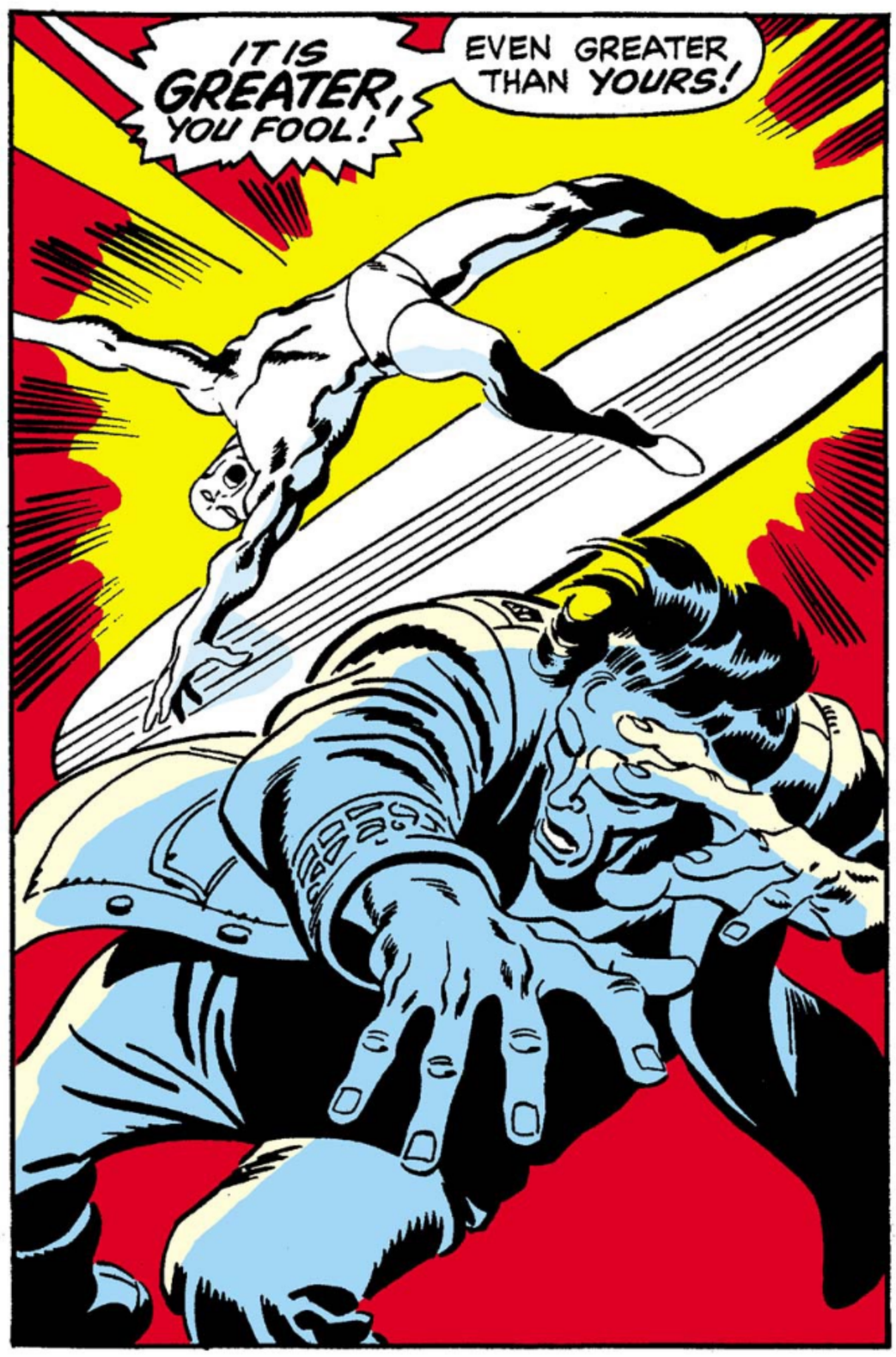
TO YOU... I AM LESS THAN THE DUST BENEATH YOUR FEET...
BUT, THOUGH BORGO LIVES LIKE A WHIMPERING GARGOYLE...
THE MOMENT MAY COME... WHEN I DIE... LIKE A MAN!

MEANWHILE...
ALL SEEMS NORMAL ENOUGH BELOW!
AND YET, AN AURA OF FEAR HANGS HEAVY IN THE AIR!

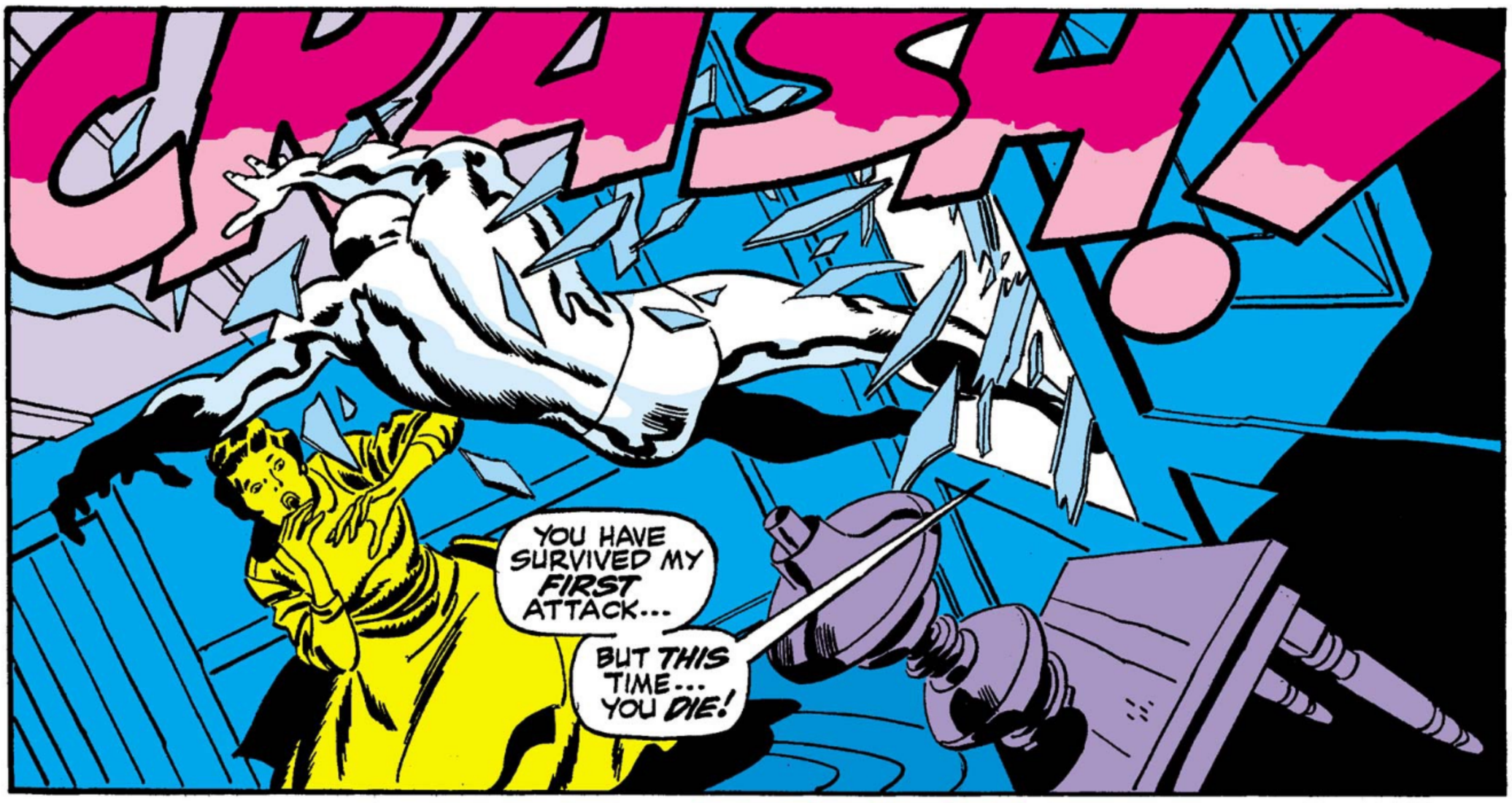
QUICKLY... ON YOUR KNEES! IT IS HIM! HE HAS RETURNED!
WHAT SHALL BECOME OF US... IF HE STRIKES AGAIN!
MERCY! MERCY! WE BEG YOU... TO SPARE US!

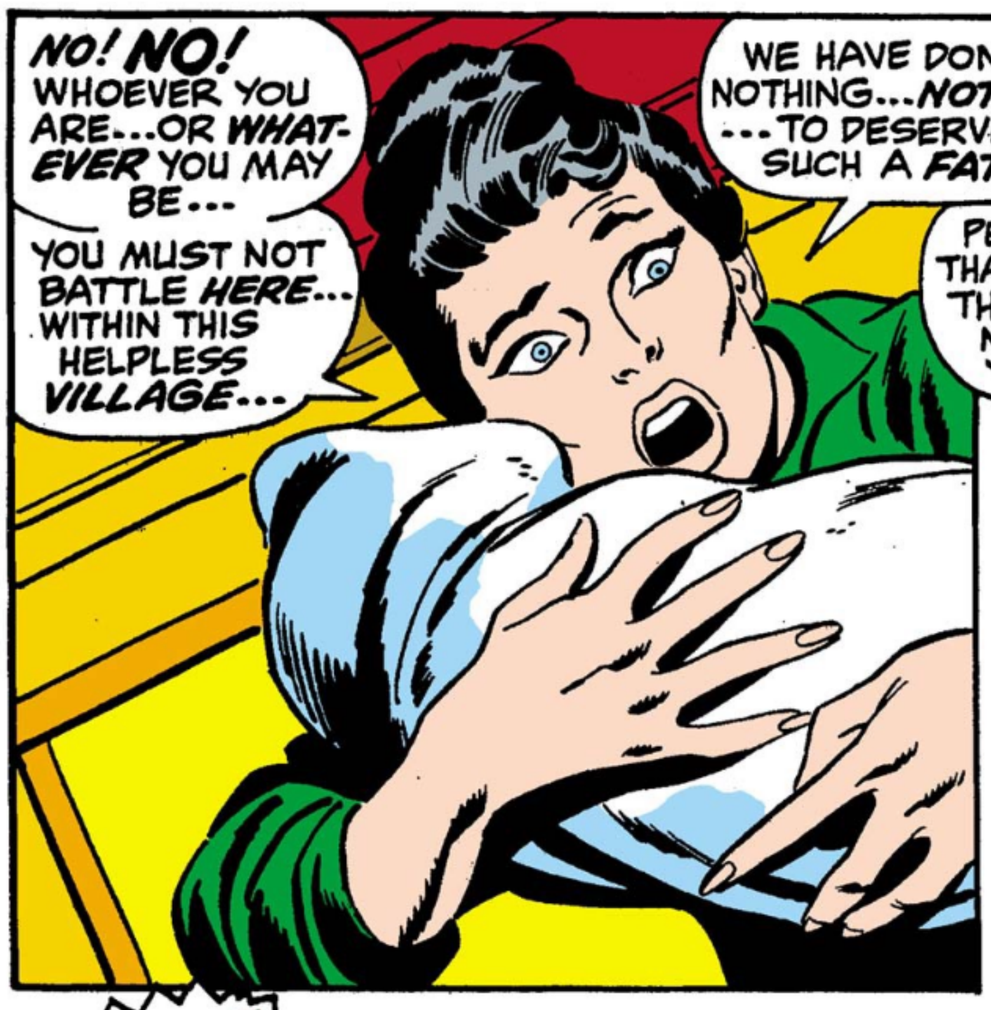

ALL OF YOU... BACK ON YOUR FEET!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE SILVER SURFER!
NO! NO! IT IS A TRICK! YOU SEEK TO TRAP US!
IT AMUSES YOU TO TOY WITH US... BEFORE WE ARE SLAIN!

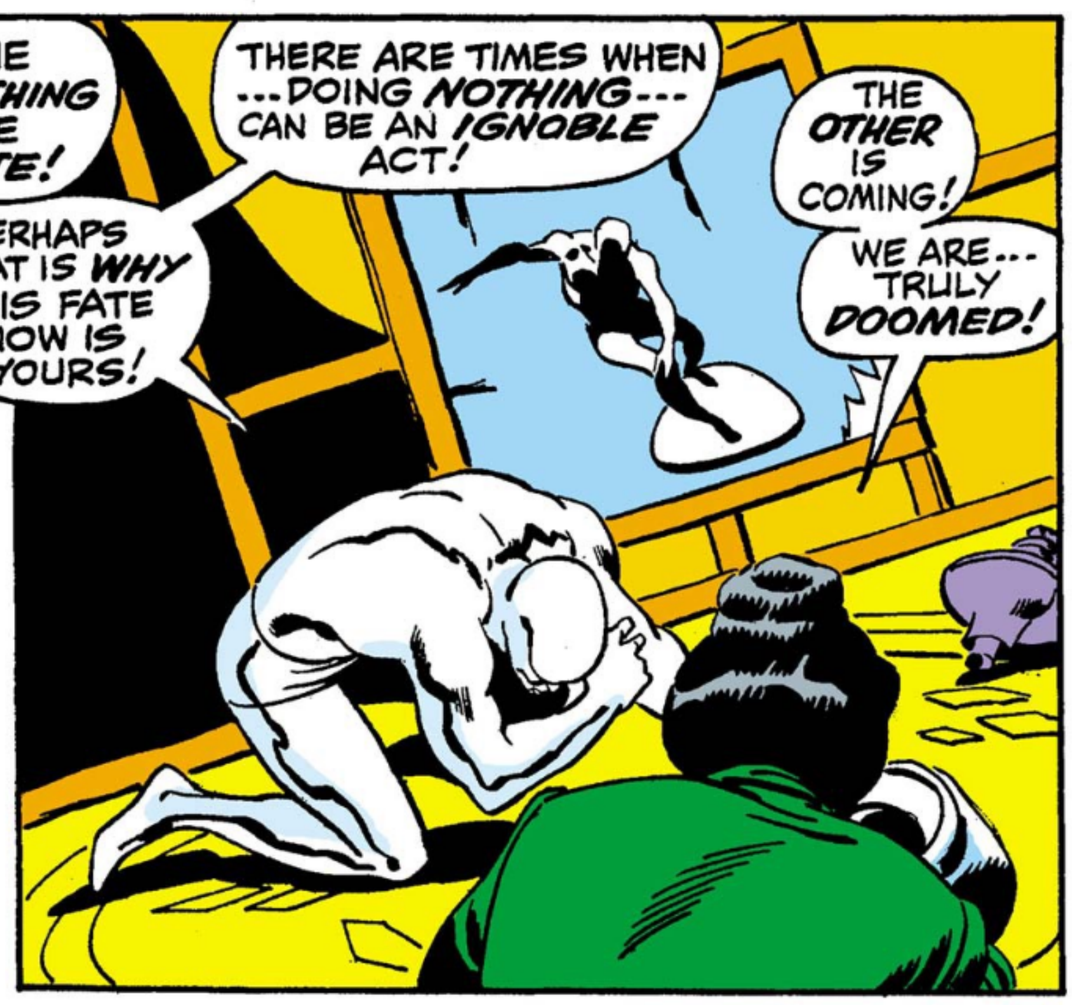
CAN IT BE? IN SO SHORT A TIME...HE HAS REDUCED YOU TO THIS?
THEN HIS POWER IS TRULY AS GREAT AS I DID FEAR!
...FOR I AM WITHOUT MERCY!

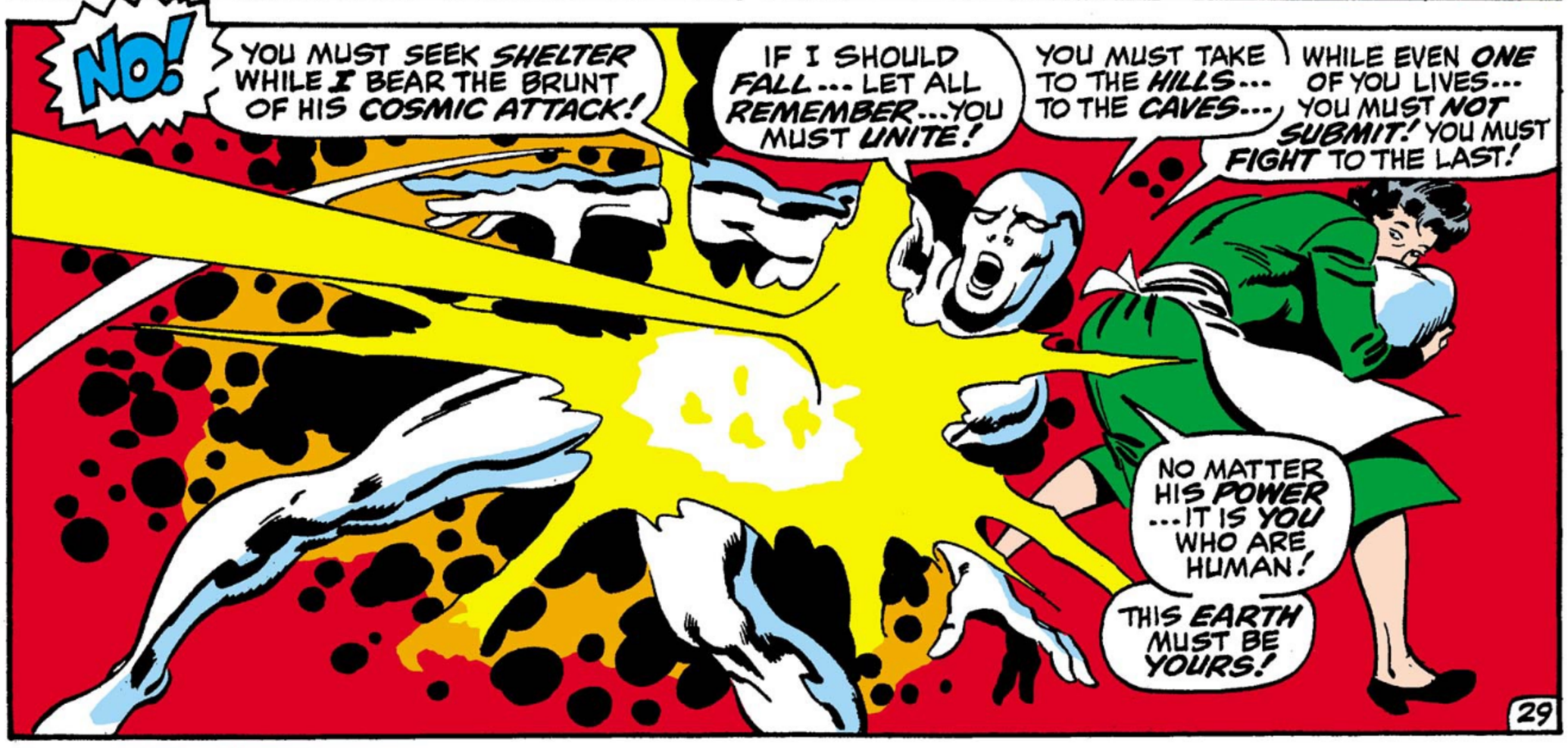

IT IS GREATER, YOU FOOL!
EVEN GREATER THAN YOURS!

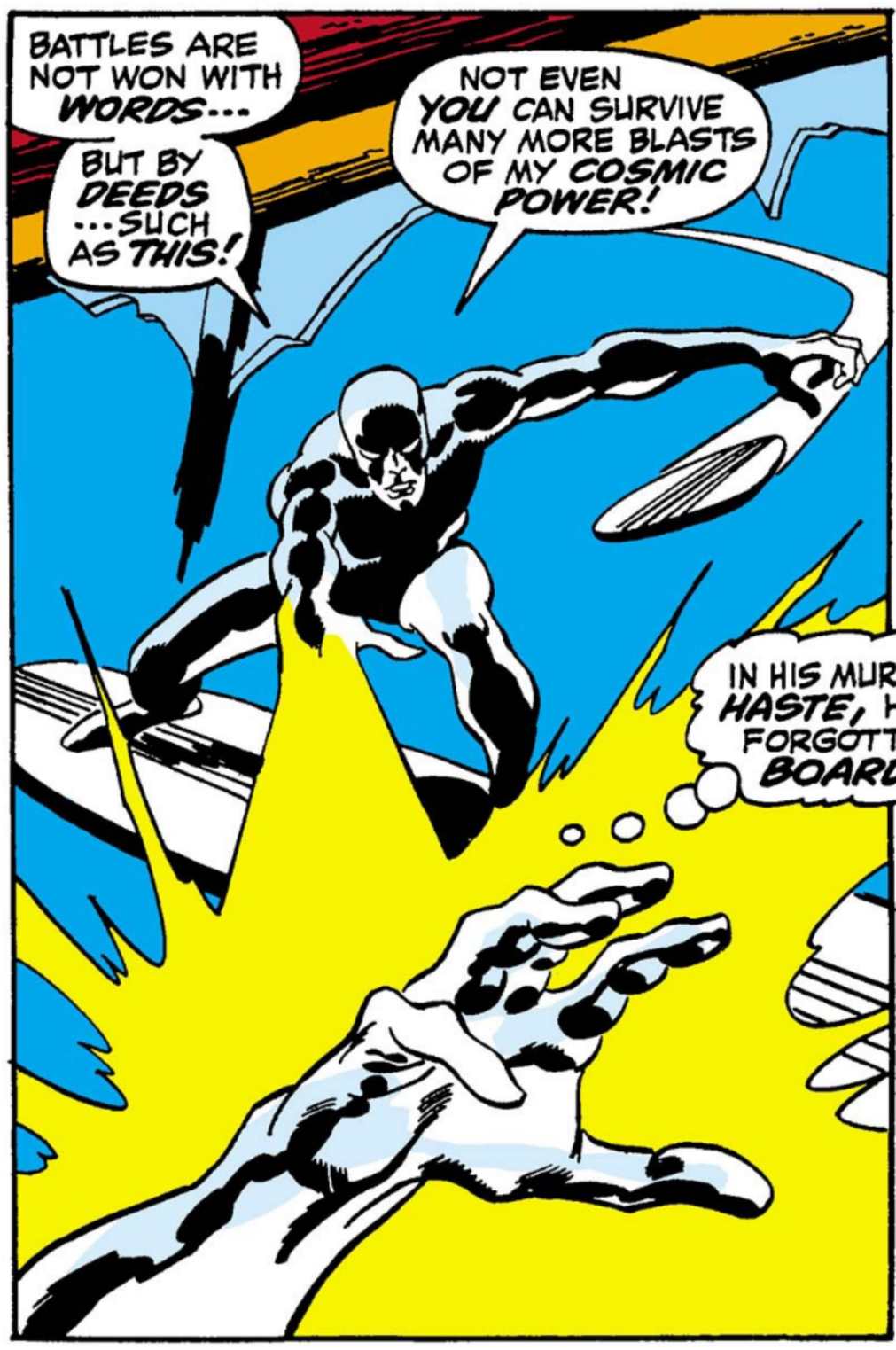
I AM NOT WEAKENED BY COM-PASSION!
MAY THE SAINTS PRESERVE US...
THERE ARE TWO OF THEM!

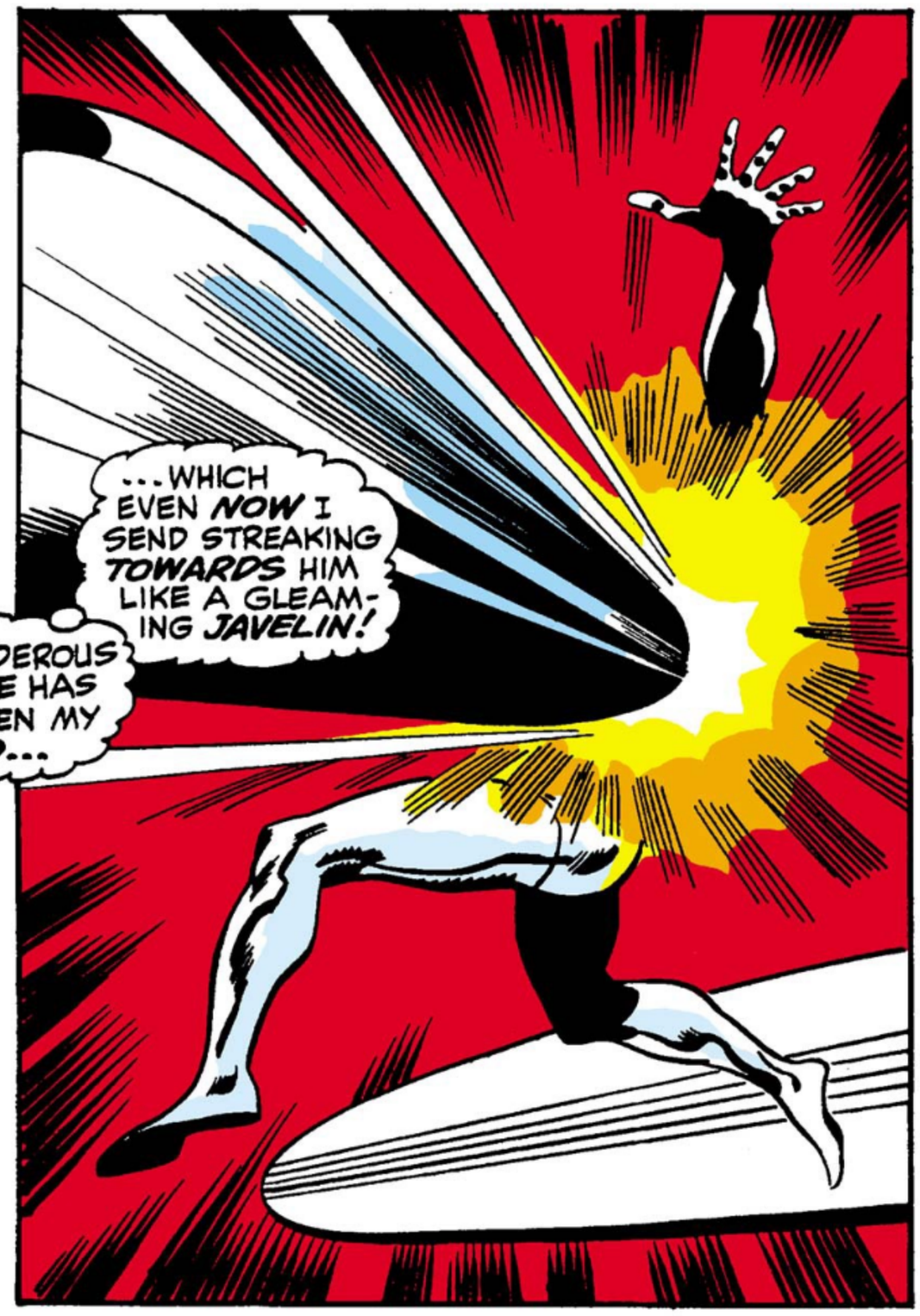

CRASH!
YOU HAVE SURVIVED MY FIRST ATTACK...
BUT THIS TIME... YOU DIE!


NO! NO! WHOEVER YOU ARE...OR WHATEVER YOU MAY BE...
YOU MUST NOT BATTLE HERE... WITHIN THIS HELPLESS VILLAGE...
WE HAVE DONE NOTHING...NOTHING ...TO DESERVE SUCH A FATE!

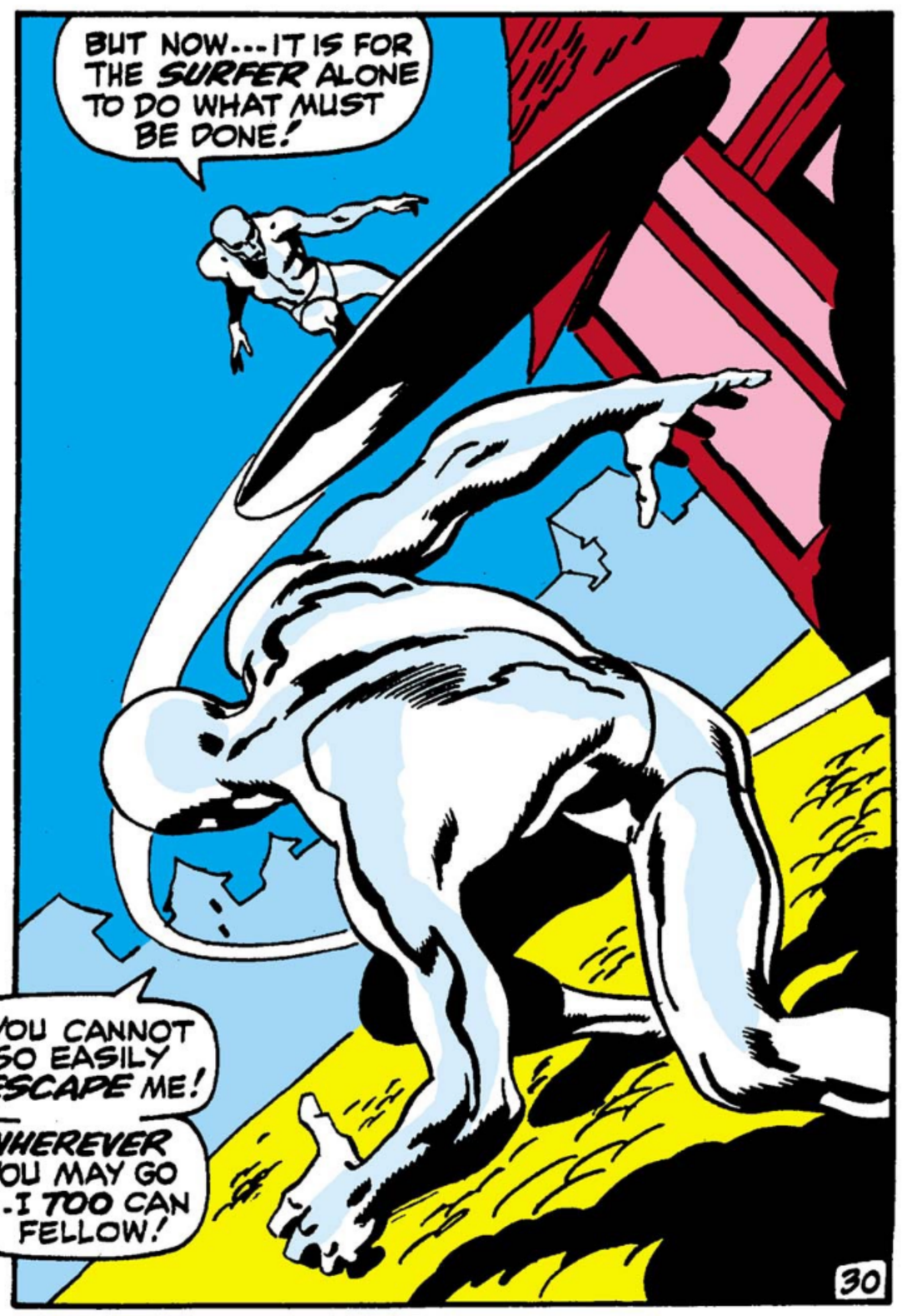

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ...DOING NOTHING... CAN BE AN IGNOBLE ACT!
PERHAPS THAT IS WHY THIS FATE NOW IS YOURS!
THE OTHER IS COMING!
WE ARE... TRULY DOOMED!


NO!
YOU MUST SEEK SHELTER WHILE I BEAR THE BRUNT OF HIS COSMIC ATTACK!
IF I SHOULD FALL... LET ALL REMEMBER...YOU MUST UNITE!
YOU MUST TAKE TO THE HILLS... TO THE CAVES...
WHILE EVEN ONE OF YOU LIVES... YOU MUST NOT SUBMIT! YOU MUST FIGHT TO THE LAST!
NO MATTER HIS POWER ...IT IS YOU WHO ARE HUMAN!
THIS EARTH MUST BE YOURS!


BATTLES ARE NOT WON WITH WORDS...
BUT BY DEEDS ...SUCH AS THIS!
NOT EVEN YOU CAN SURVIVE MANY MORE BLASTS OF MY COSMIC POWER!
IN HIS MURDEROUS HASTE, HE HAS FORGOTTEN MY BOARD...


...WHICH EVEN NOW I SEND STREAKING TOWARDS HIM LIKE A GLEAMING JAVELIN!

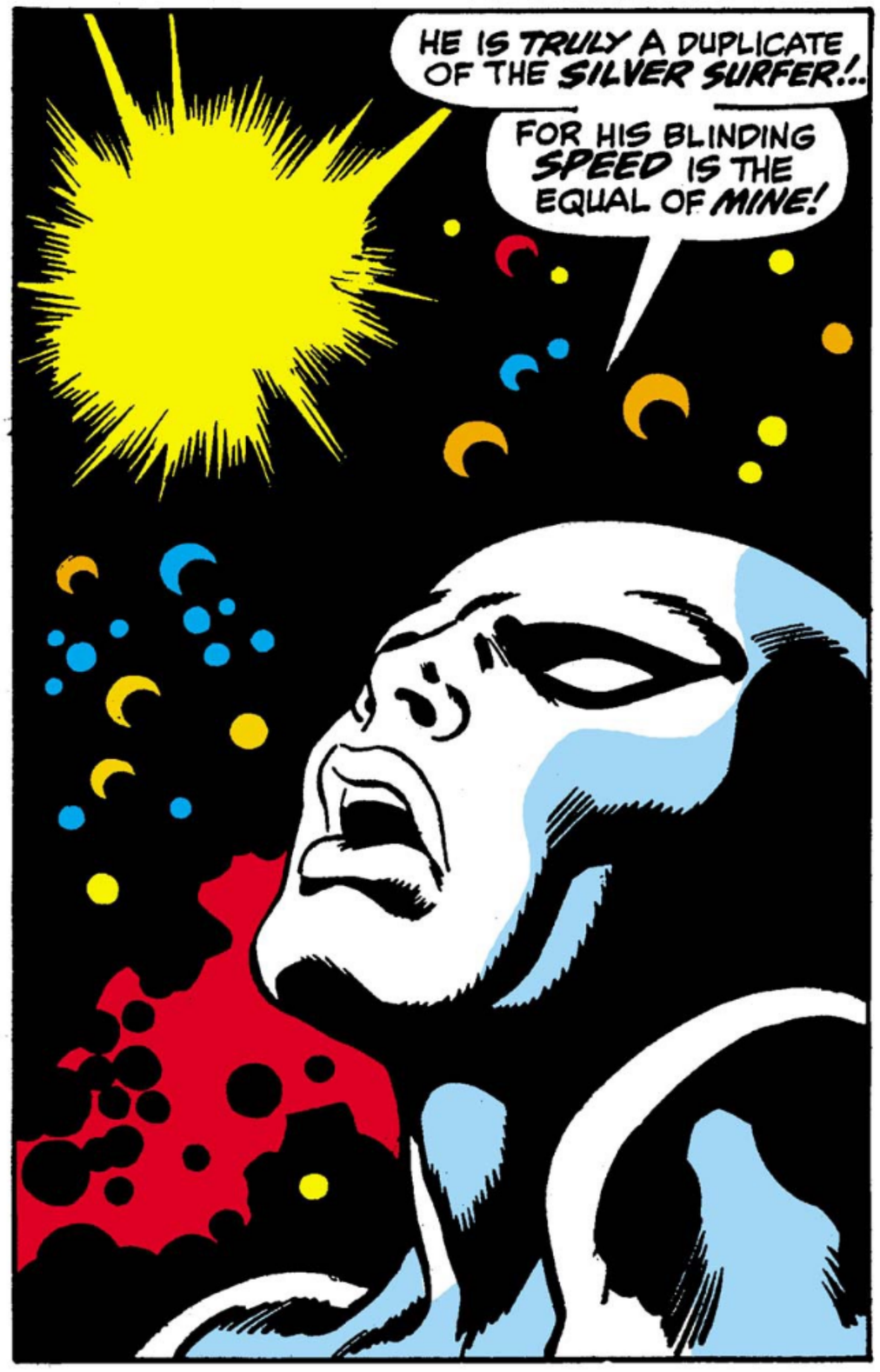
YOU! WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE? WHY HAVE YOU NOT FLED?
I COULD NOT LEAVE YOU...WHEN YOU HAVE RISKED ALL...TO SAVE US!
I...WANT TO STAY! I WANT TO BE...OF SOME HELP!
IF A SPARK OF SUCH BRAVERY STILL REMAINS...
THERE YET MAY BE HOPE ...FOR THE HUMAN RACE!


BUT NOW...IT IS FOR THE SURFER ALONE TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!
YOU CANNOT SO EASILY ESCAPE ME!
WHEREVER YOU MAY GO ...I TOO CAN FELLOW!

GOOD! HE COMES AFTER ME... JUST AS I PLANNED!

WE MUST NOT FIGHT ON THE LAND BELOW... WHERE INNOCENT BEINGS MAY BE THE VICTIMS!

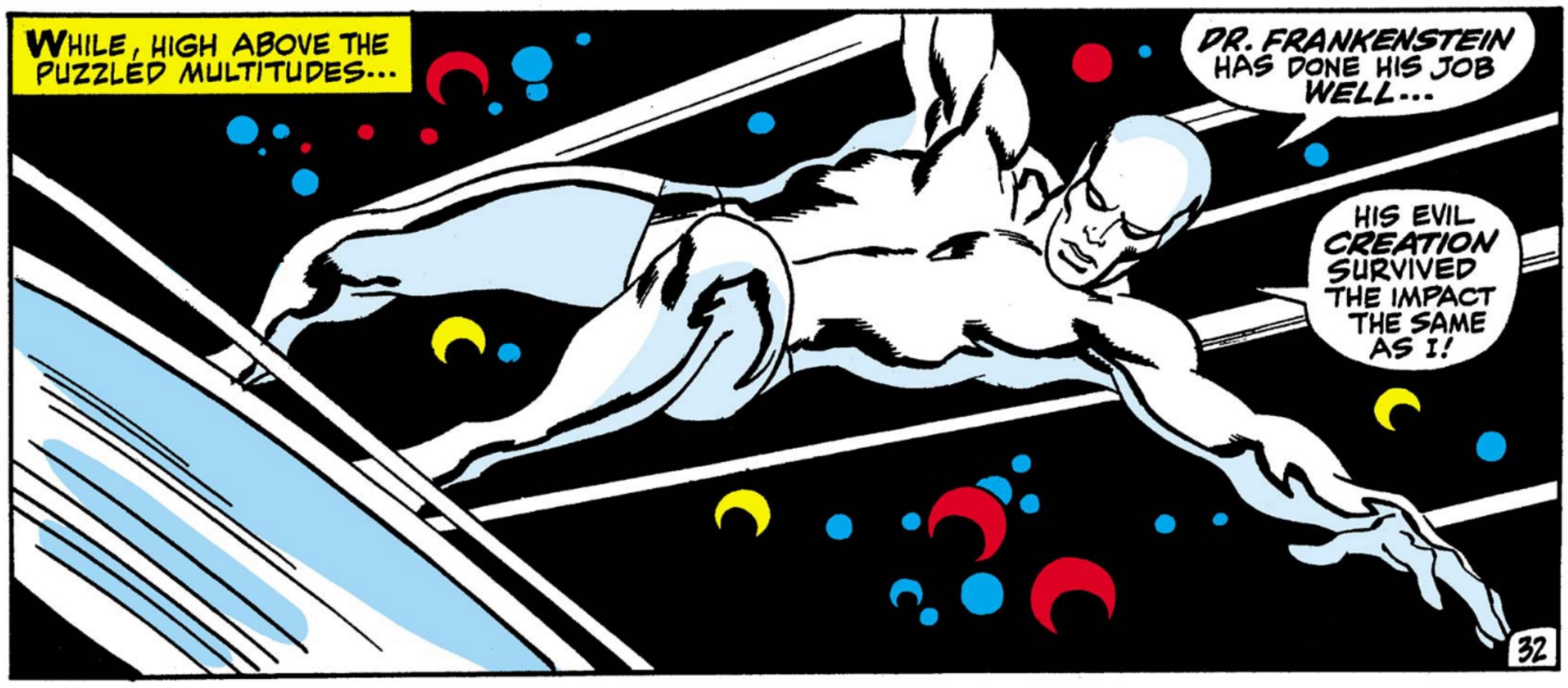
WHATEVER THE RESULT MUST BE... LET IT BE HERE, ON THE EDGE OF SPACE... WHERE I WAS BORN TO BATTLE!

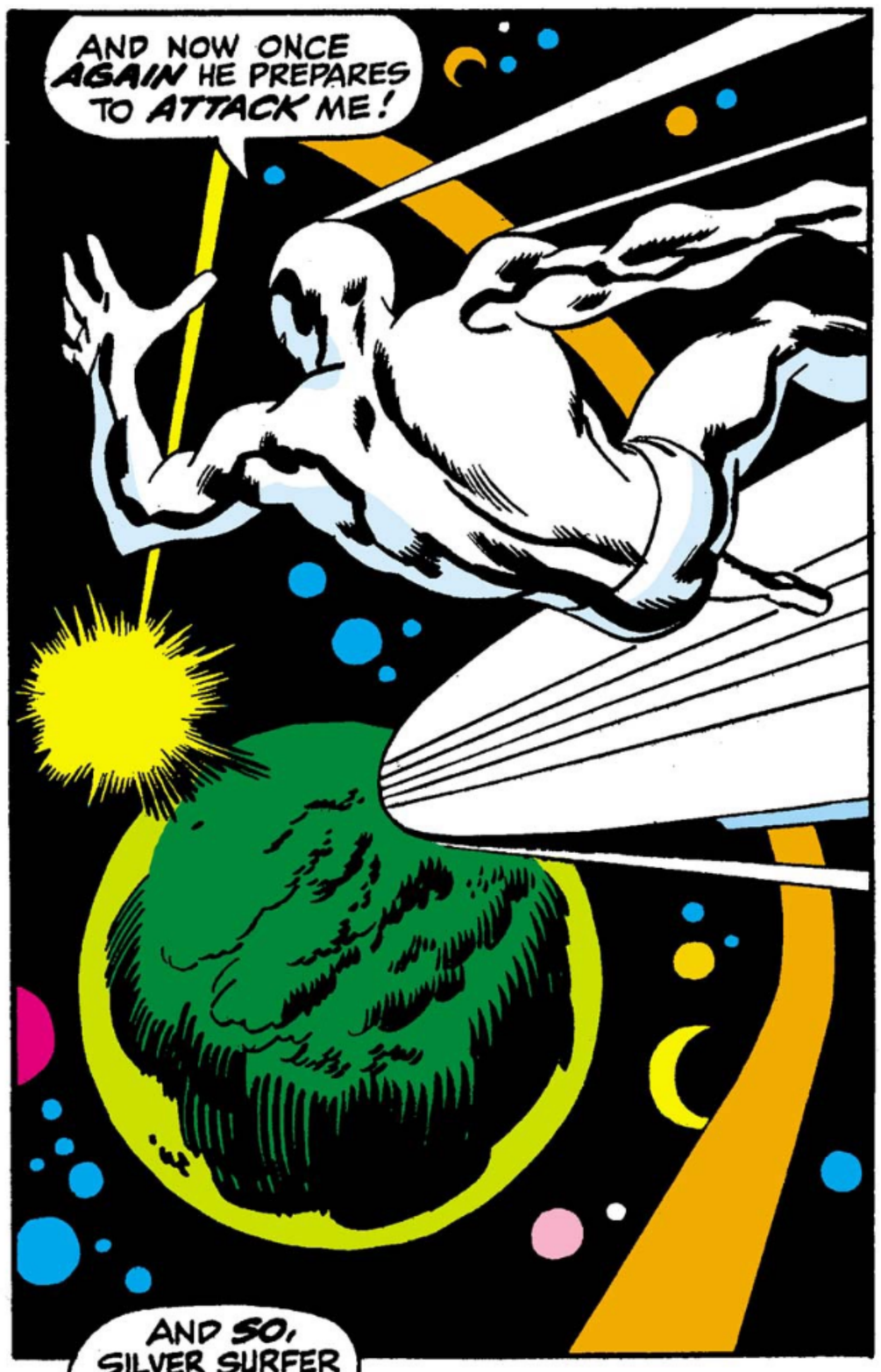


SPLAFFKAMM!

DR. HARTFORD! LOOK AT THE OSCILLOGRAPH!
THE NEEDLE'S GOING WILD!
ONLY SOME SORT OF CALAMITY IN SPACE COULD CAUSE A REACTION LIKE THAT!
BUT, IN THE NAME OF REASON... ...WHAT CAN IT BE?

COVER YOUR EYES! THE LIGHT IS TOO MUCH TO BEAR!
THAT BLINDING FLASH... LIKE A THOUSAND SUNS EXPLODING!


WHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE PUZZLED MULTITUDES...
DR. FRANKENSTEIN HAS DONE HIS JOB WELL...
HIS EVIL CREATION SURVIVED THE IMPACT THE SAME AS I!


AND NOW ONCE AGAIN HE PREPARES TO ATTACK ME!

DO YOU REALIZE AT LAST THAT YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME?
AND EVEN MORE... I HAVE A WILL TO WIN FAR GREATER THAN YOURS!
I HAVE ALL YOUR POWER...AND ALL YOUR SPEED...
NOW THAT I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF LIFE...
NONE SHALL TAKE IT AWAY!

AND SO, SILVER SURFER ...YOU MUST DIE!
NOT YET, EVIL ONE!
YOUR SPEED MAY EQUAL MINE...

...BUT I STILL POSSESS SKILLS...
...WHICH WERE A LIFETIME IN THE LEARNING!

WHILE BACK ON PLANET EARTH...
DA, COMRADE...OUR INTELLIGENCE SUSPECTS THE AMERICANS ARE TESTING NEW SPACE WEAPONS!
BUT IS IT NOT STRANGE ...THAT IS WHAT THEIR INTELLIGENCE THINKS THAT WE ARE DOING!
PERHAPS THE TIME IS NEAR WHEN WE BOTH SHALL FACE SOME COMMON ENEMY!
OR PERHAPS THE DAY MAY COME ...WHEN NO MAN WILL BE CALLED ...ENEMY!

BUT THAT DAY, ALAS, IS NOT YET HERE...AS WE CAN PLAINLY SEE...
IT IS ALL THE DOING OF FRANKENSTEIN!
THIS TIME NOTHING WILL TURN US BACK!
ONLY HE CAN STOP THE FLYING MONSTER!
ON TO FRANKEN-STEIN CASTLE!!

SO! ONCE AGAIN THE HOWLING JACKALS DARE TO THREATEN THE TIGER!
NO, MASTER... NO! YOU CANNOT USE IT AGAINST YOUR OWN PEOPLE!
BORGO! GIVE ME MY WEAPON!

WHAT? YOU DARE SPEAK SO TO ME?
ONCE I HAVE DISPATCHED THAT MOTLEY MOB BELOW ...I SHALL SETTLE WITH YOU...FOR THE LAST TIME!
THIS TIME, YOU MANGY, USELESS OAF, YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR!

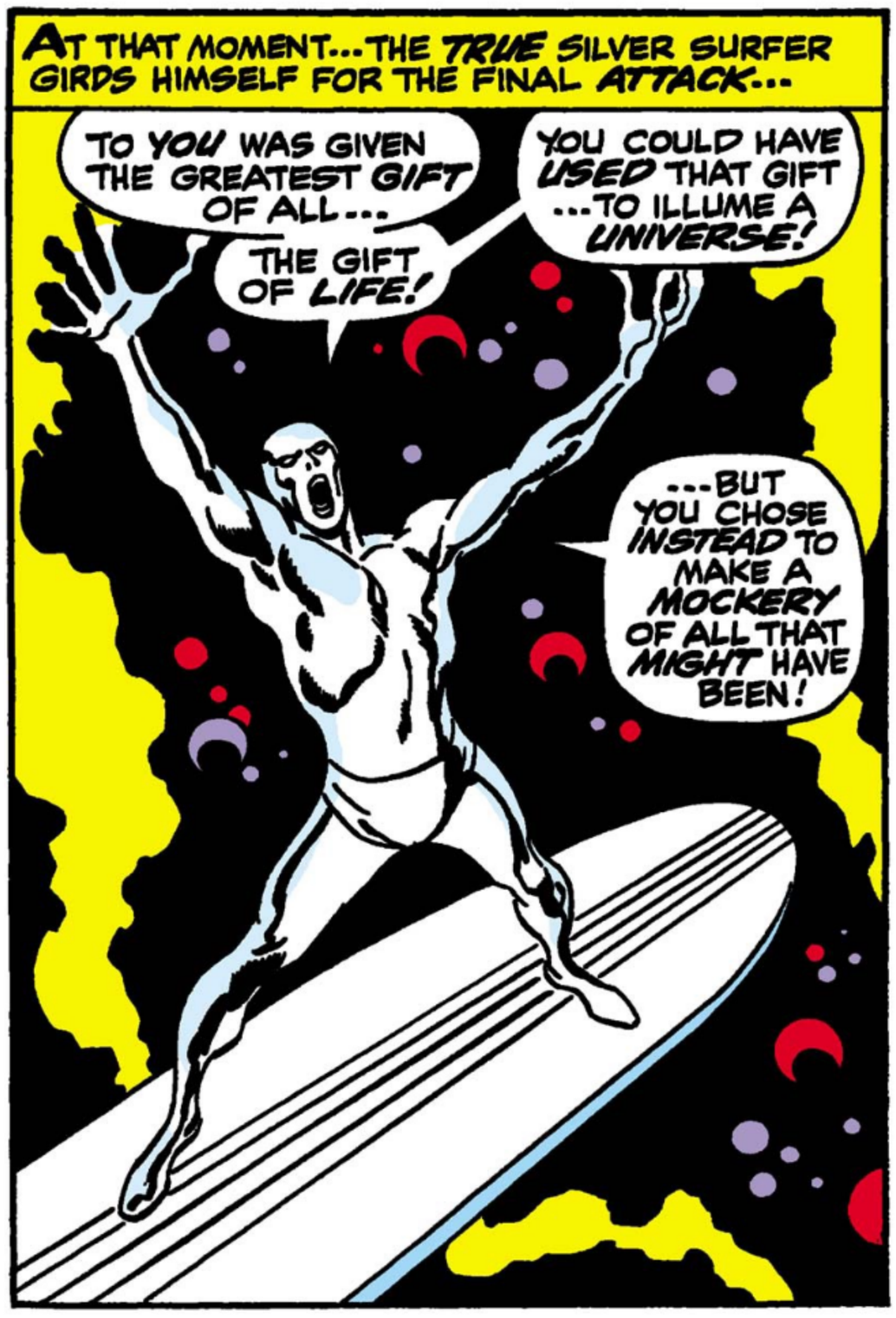
LOOK OUT! HE IS ARMED!
HE SEEKS TO DRIVE US BACK BY GUNFIRE!
BI OK!
KEEP CHARGING! HE CANNOT SHOOT US ALL!

AND STILL THEY COME! DO THEY THINK ME TOO LILY-LIVERED TO FIRE INTO THEIR MIDST?
I NEED HAVE NO FEAR OF RETRIBUTION!
NOT WHILE MY WHITE-SKINNED CREATION LIVES TO PROTECT ME!
BORGO! YOU DOG... GIVE ME MORE SHELLS!
BTOK!
BTOK!

I WARNED YOU, MASTER!
...WARNED YOU THAT ONE DAY YOU WOULD GO TOO FAR!
BACK, YOU IMBECILE ...STAY BACK!

MY MOMENT HAS COME!
EVEN A SLAVE ...MAY DIE LIKE A MAN!
NO, BORGO... NO!
I HAD THE WORLD ...IN THE PALM OF MY HAND!!
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT FROM ME... NOT YOU... NOT YOU!
STAY BACK... THEY'RE FALLING!

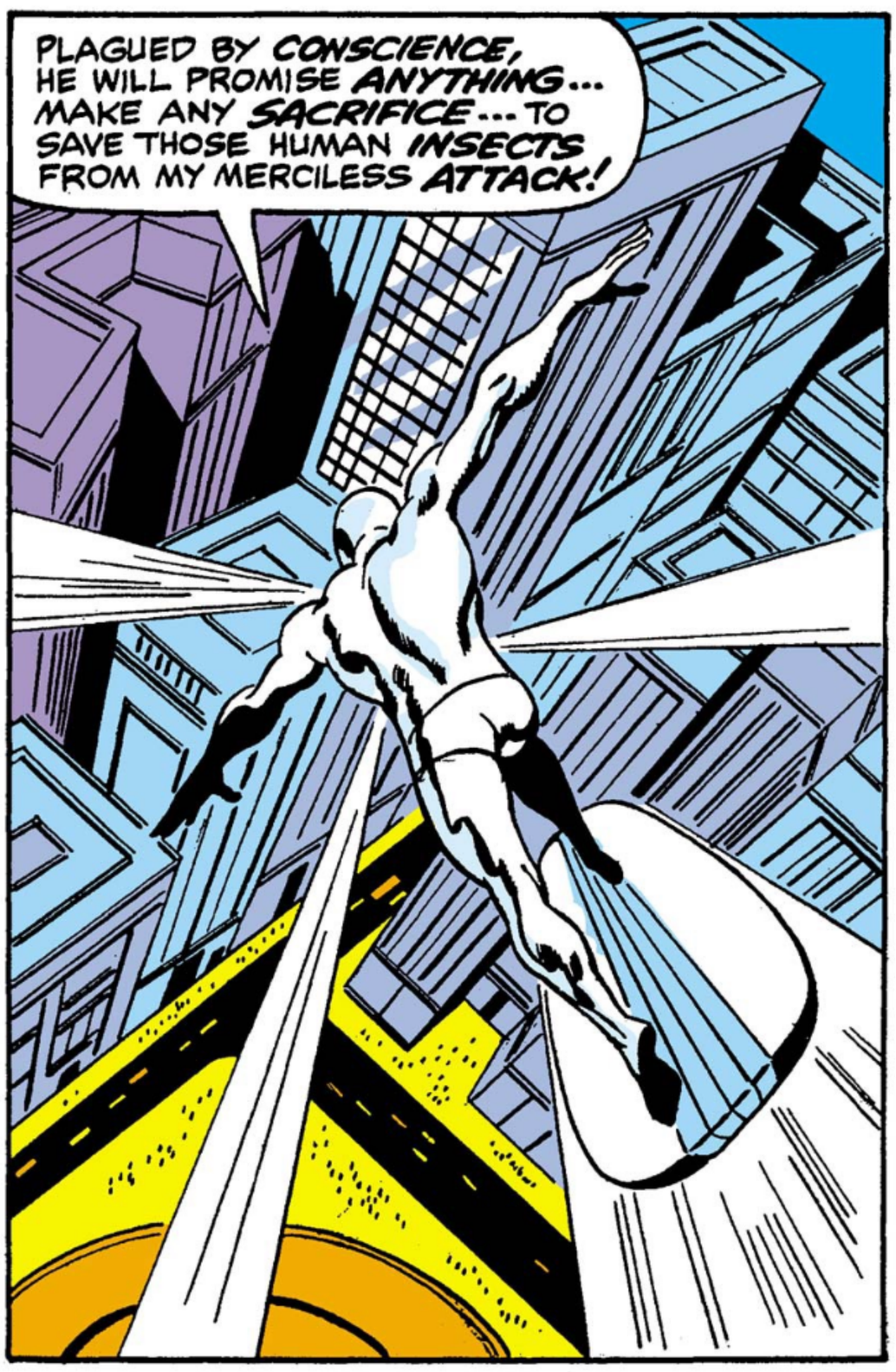
MASTER... WHAT GOOD IS THE WORLD... AT THE PRICE OF-- YOUR SOUL..?
UHHHHH...
IT IS OVER AT LAST!
THEY DIED AS THEY HAD LIVED.. TOGETHER... IN TORMENT!


AT THAT MOMENT... THE TRUE SILVER SURFER GIRDS HIMSELF FOR THE FINAL ATTACK...
TO YOU WAS GIVEN THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL...
THE GIFT OF LIFE!
YOU COULD HAVE USED THAT GIFT ...TO ILLUME A UNIVERSE!
---BUT YOU CHOSE INSTEAD TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF ALL THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!

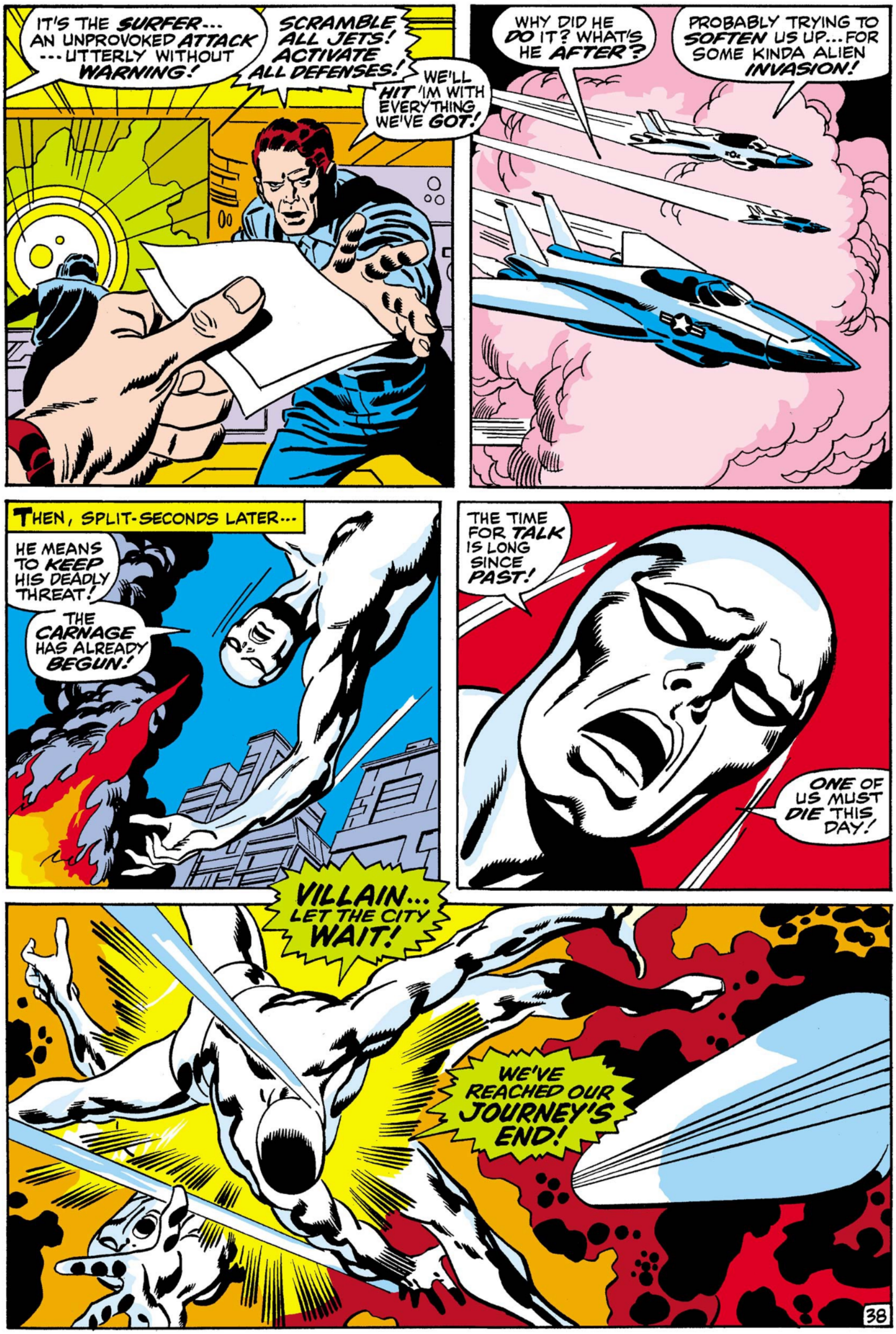
NOW THERE CAN BE NO QUARTER GIVEN...
IN ALL THE COSMOS... THERE IS NOT ROOM ENOUGH FOR YOU...-AND ME!

ONCE AGAIN MY POWER IS THE EQUAL OF YOURS!
BUT, SINCE WE CANNOT SLAY EACH OTHER...
I SHALL GAIN MY ENDS IN ANOTHER MANNER!
YOUR ACCURSED SENSE OF PITY SHALL CAUSE YOUR UNDOING!

HE PLUNGES BACK TO EARTH... TO WREAK HAVOC THERE!
PITY FOR THE WEAKLINGS WHO DWELL HELPLESSLY BELOW...!


PLAGUED BY CONSCIENCE, HE WILL PROMISE ANYTHING... MAKE ANY SACRIFICE... TO SAVE THOSE HUMAN INSECTS FROM MY MERCILESS ATTACK!

THUS, VICTORY MUST EVER COME TO HIM WHO IS MOST EVIL!


IT'S THE SURFER... AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK ...UTTERLY WITHOUT WARNING!
SCRAMBLE ALL JETS! ACTIVATE ALL DEFENSES!
WE'LL HIT 'IM WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!
WHY DID HE DO IT? WHAT'S HE AFTER?
PROBABLY TRYING TO SOFTEN US UP...FOR SOME KINDA ALIEN INVASION!
THEN, SPLIT-SECONDS LATER...
HE MEANS TO KEEP HIS DEADLY THREAT!
THE CARNAGE HAS ALREADY BEGUN!
THE TIME FOR TALK IS LONG SINCE PAST!
ONE OF US MUST DIE THIS DAY!
VILLAIN... LET THE CITY WAIT!
WE'VE REACHED OUR JOURNEY'S END!
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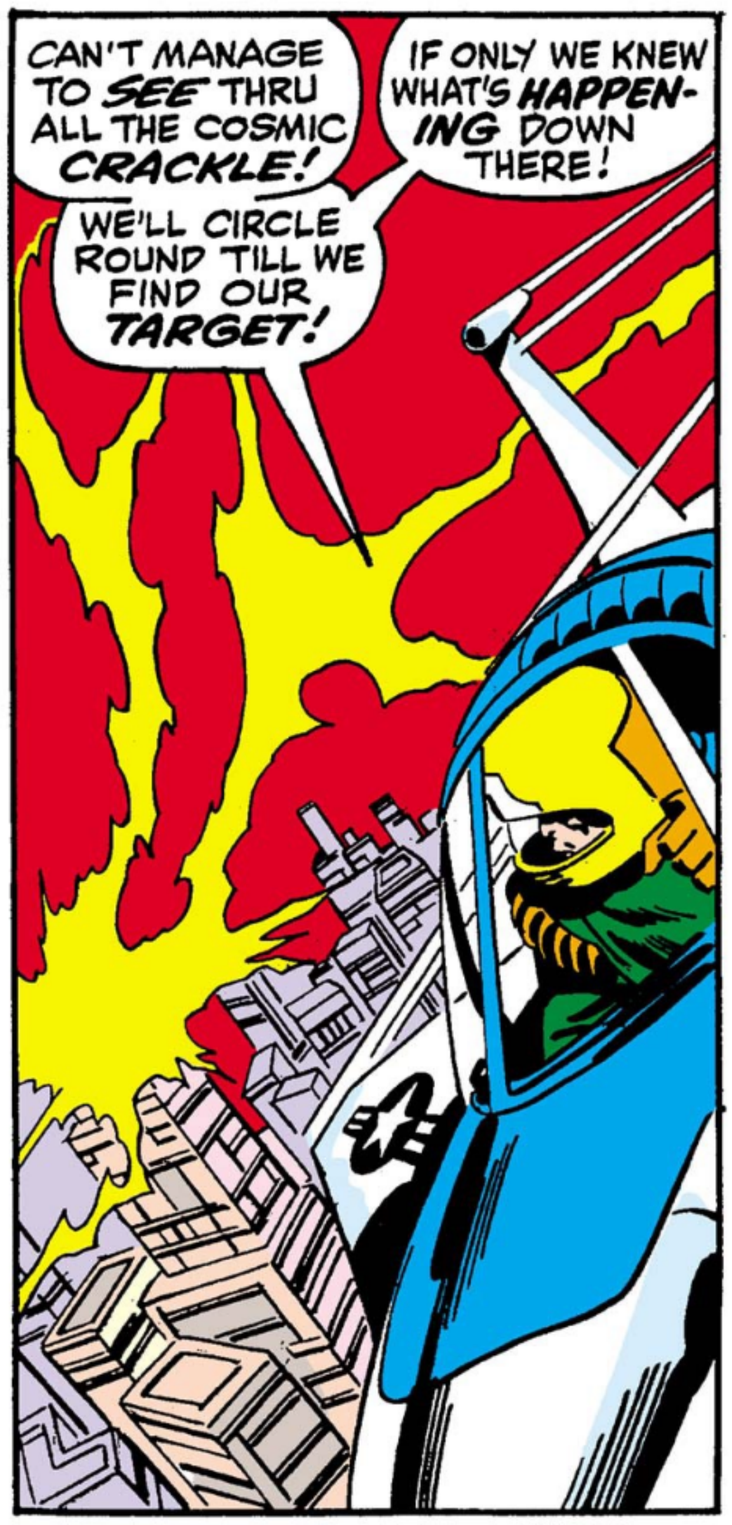

CAN'T MANAGE TO SEE THRU ALL THE COSMIC CRACKLE!
IF ONLY WE KNEW WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE!
WE'LL CIRCLE ROUND TILL WE FIND OUR TARGET!

BUT ALAS, NONE BUT WE SHALL EVER KNOW...
I WILL NOT RELEASE MY HOLD TILL ONE OF US HAS FALLEN!
BUT OUR STRENGTH IS EQUAL!
WILLINGLY I'D GIVE MY LIFE...
...TO PUT AN END TO YOURS!

NO! NO! IT MUST NOT END LIKE THIS!!
IT CANNOT, DO YOU HEAR?
WE BOTH WILL DIE!
I WANT TO LIVE! I WANT TO LIVE!

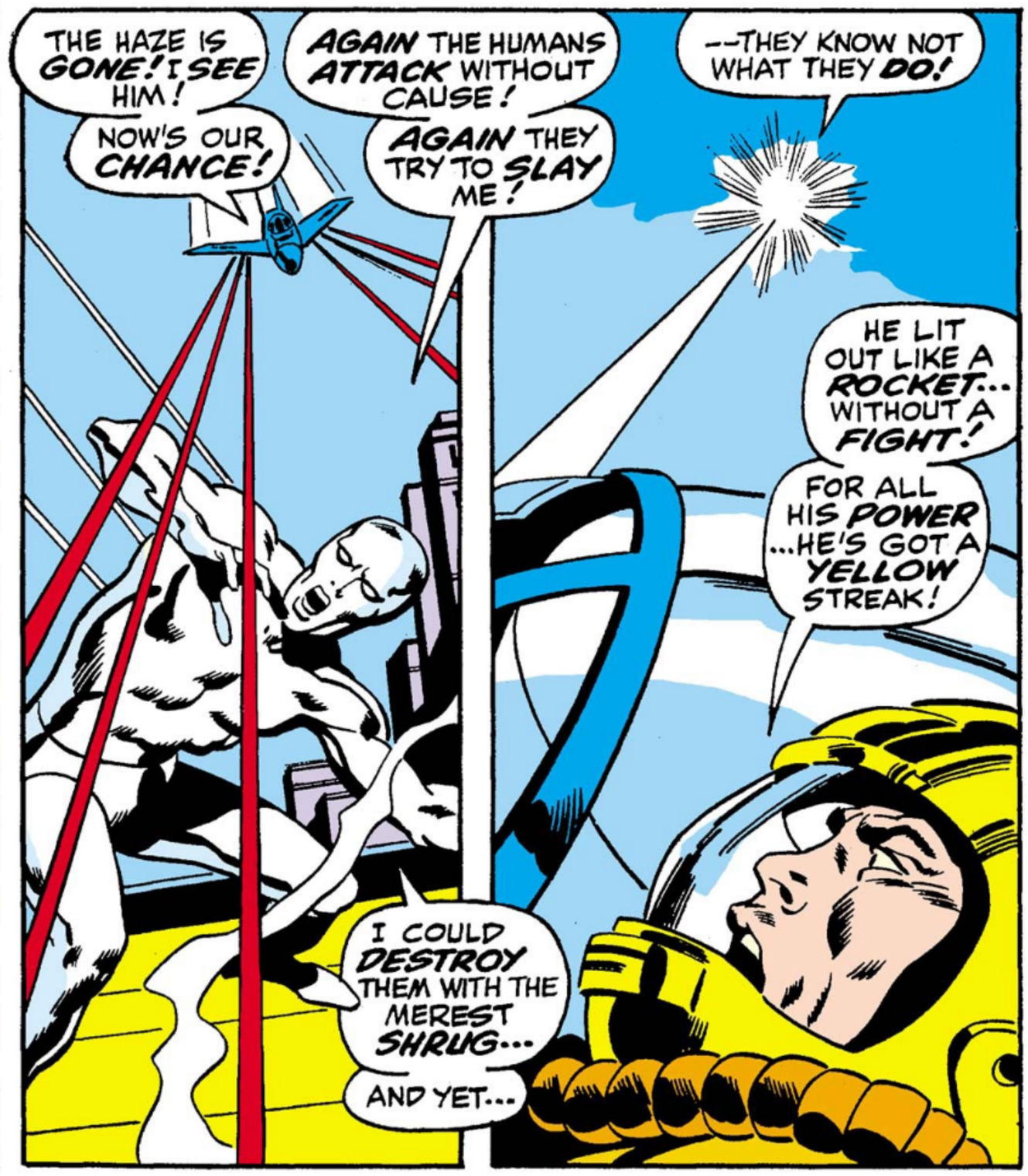
SO DO THOSE WHOM YOU WOULD DESTROY!
YOUR GRIP GROWS STRONGER...WHILE MINE GETS LIMP!
THE ENERGY IS DRAINING FROM ME...!

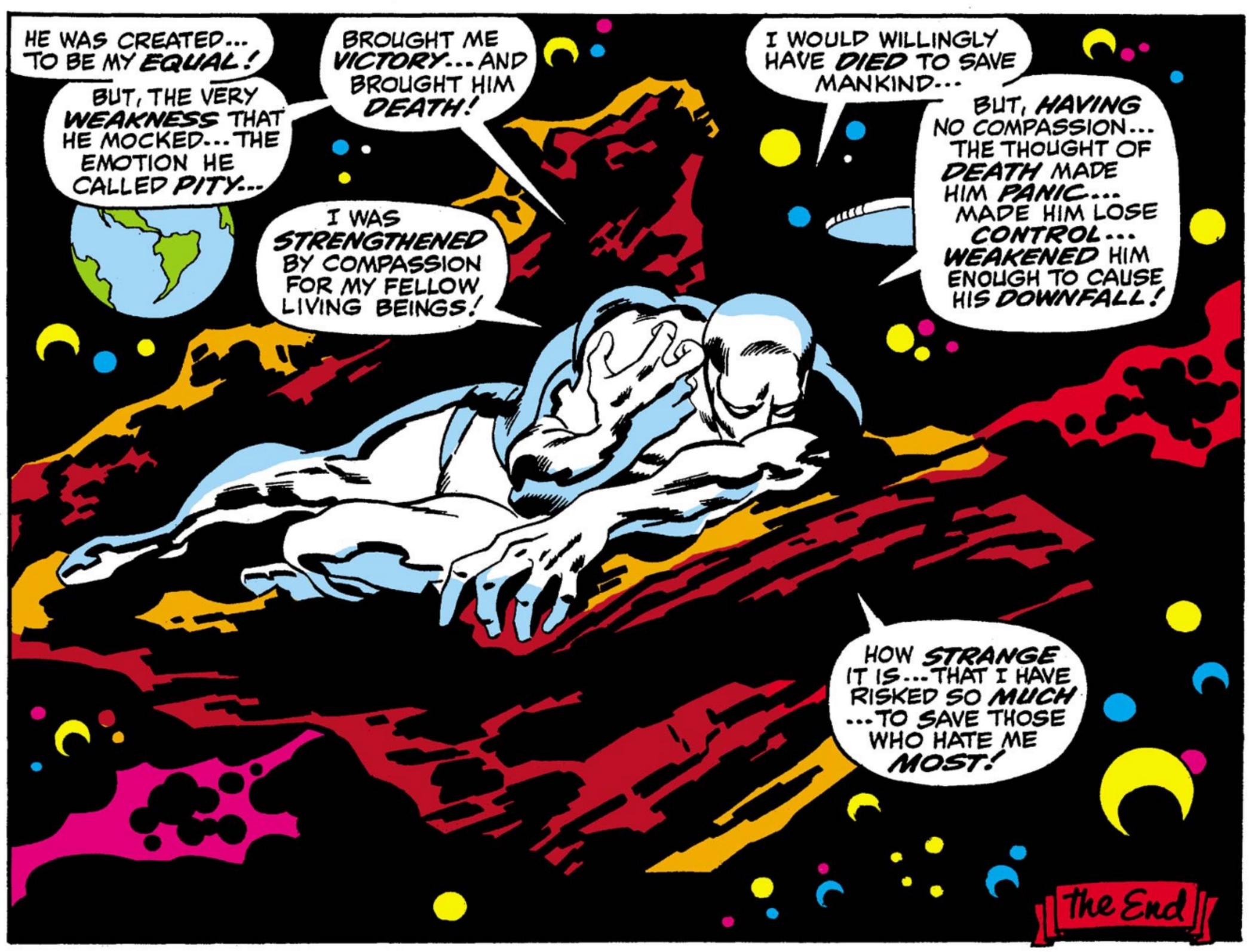
IT CANNOT BE! I WAS CREATED TO BE YOUR EQUAL! YOUR EQUAL!

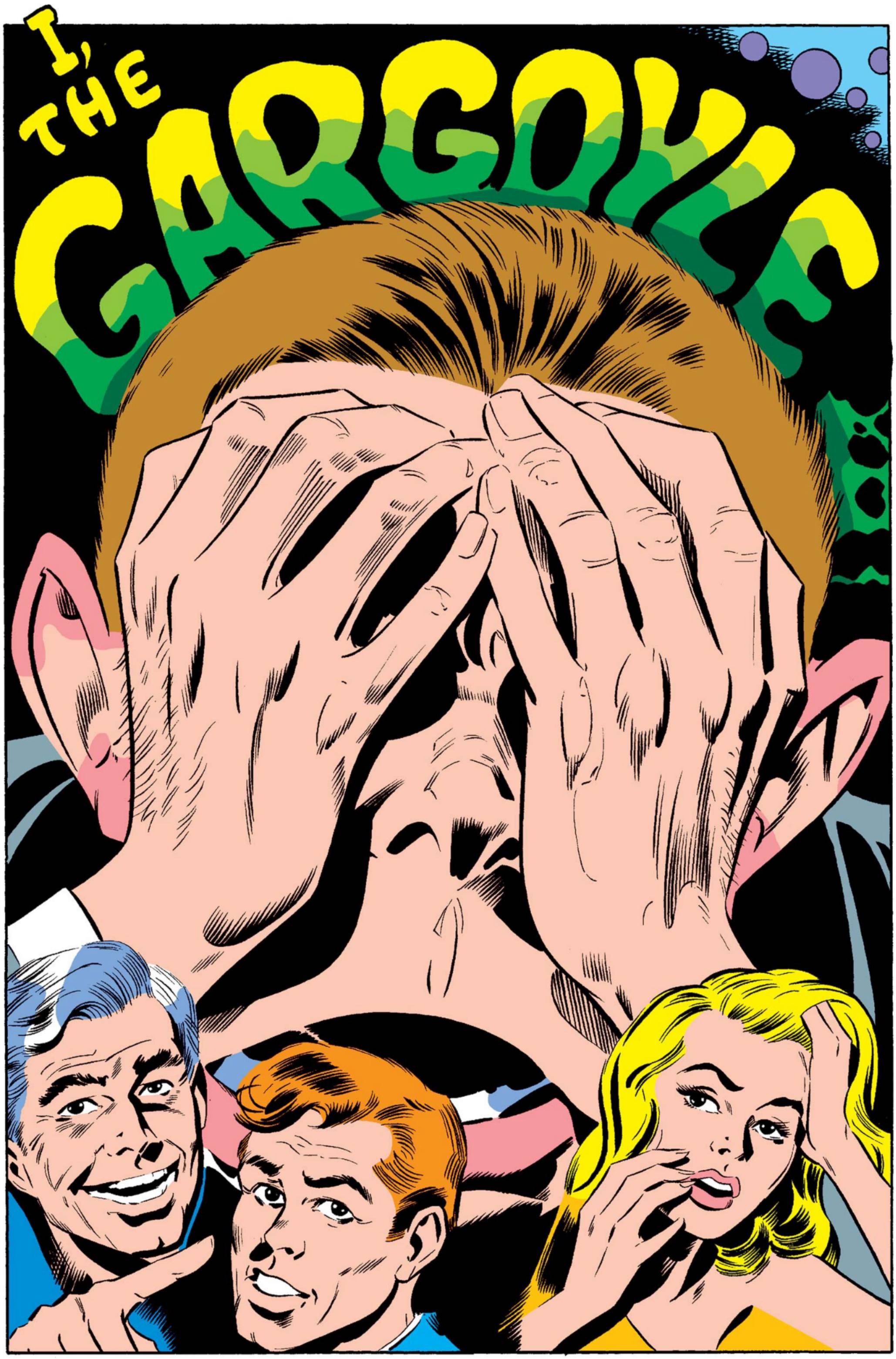
YOUR EQUAL! EQUAL!

EEEEEQUALLE

HE WHO WAS NOTHING... IS NOTHING ONCE MORE!


THE HAZE IS GONE! I SEE HIM!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
AGAIN THE HUMANS ATTACK WITHOUT CAUSE!
AGAIN THEY TRY TO SLAY ME!
--THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO!
HE LIT OUT LIKE A ROCKET... WITHOUT A FIGHT!
FOR ALL HIS POWER ...HE'S GOT A YELLOW STREAK!
I COULD DESTROY THEM WITH THE MEREST SHRUG...
AND YET...

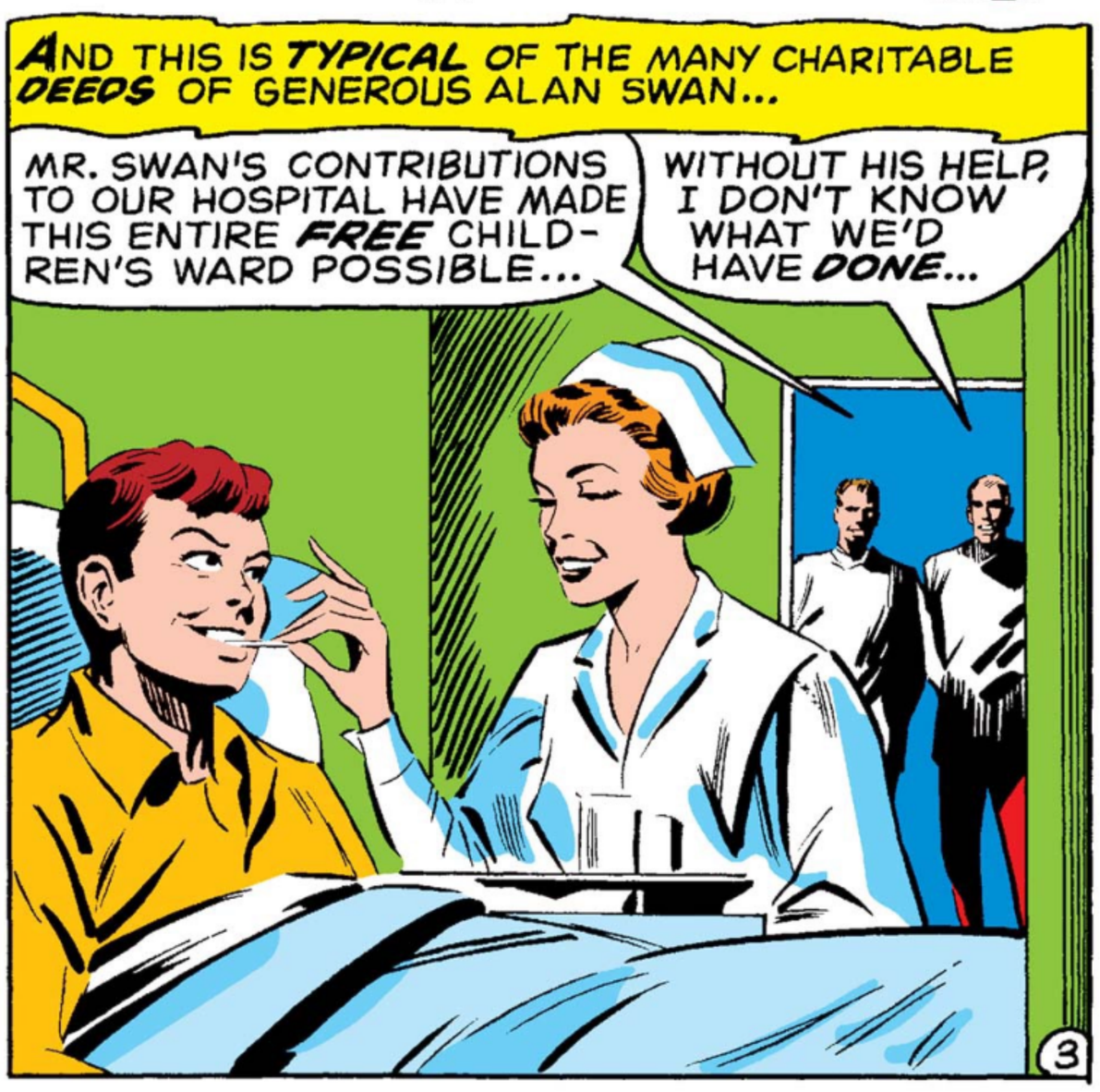

HE WAS CREATED... TO BE MY EQUAL!
BUT, THE VERY WEAKNESS THAT HE MOCKED... THE EMOTION HE CALLED PITY...
BROUGHT ME VICTORY... AND BROUGHT HIM DEATH!
I WAS STRENGTHENED BY COMPASSION FOR MY FELLOW LIVING BEINGS!
I WOULD WILLINGLY HAVE DIED TO SAVE MANKIND...
BUT, HAVING NO COMPASSION... THE THOUGHT OF DEATH MADE HIM PANIC... MADE HIM LOSE CONTROL... WEAKENED HIM ENOUGH TO CAUSE HIS DOWNFALL!
HOW STRANGE IT IS... THAT I HAVE RISKED SO MUCH ...TO SAVE THOSE WHO HATE ME MOST!
The End


I, THE GARGOYLE

TALES OF THE WATCHER!
TO SOME, HE WAS THE UGLIEST MAN ALIVE! BUT SOMETIMES THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM! FOR INSTANCE...
PRESENTED BY:
STAN LEE.....AUTHOR
HOWARD PURCELL..PENCILLER
DAN ADKINS.....INKER
JEAN IZZO.....LETTERER

THESE ARE THE GENTLE HANDS OF KINDLY ***ALAN SWAN...***

THERE, THERE, FELLA...



YES, ALAN SWAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE HELPED MANY PEOPLE THROUGH RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC STUDY...

HIS TALENTS ARE MANY, BUT *MUSIC* IS HIS ONE ETERNAL LOVE...

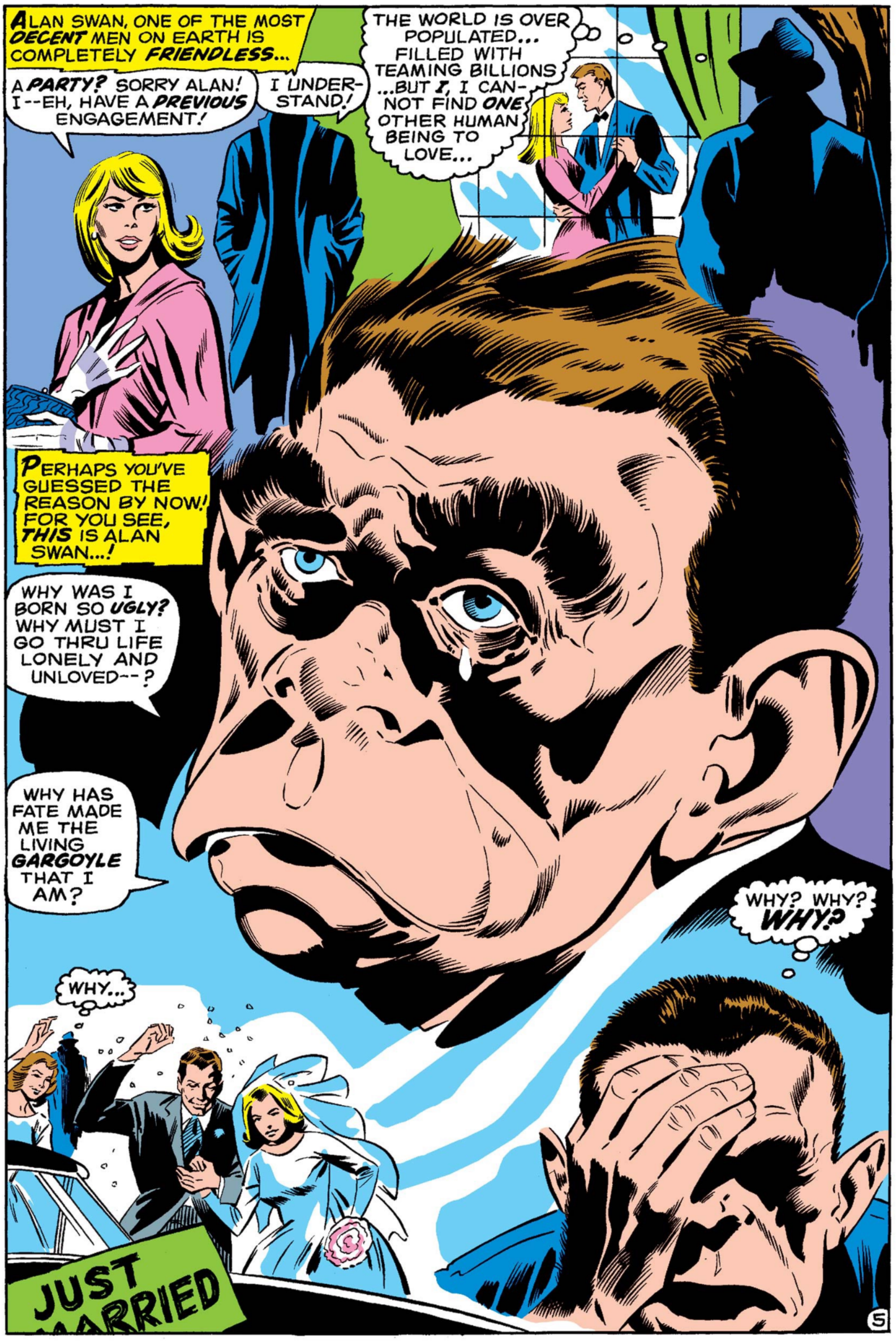
THIS MELODY NEEDS A BIT MORE WARMTH!

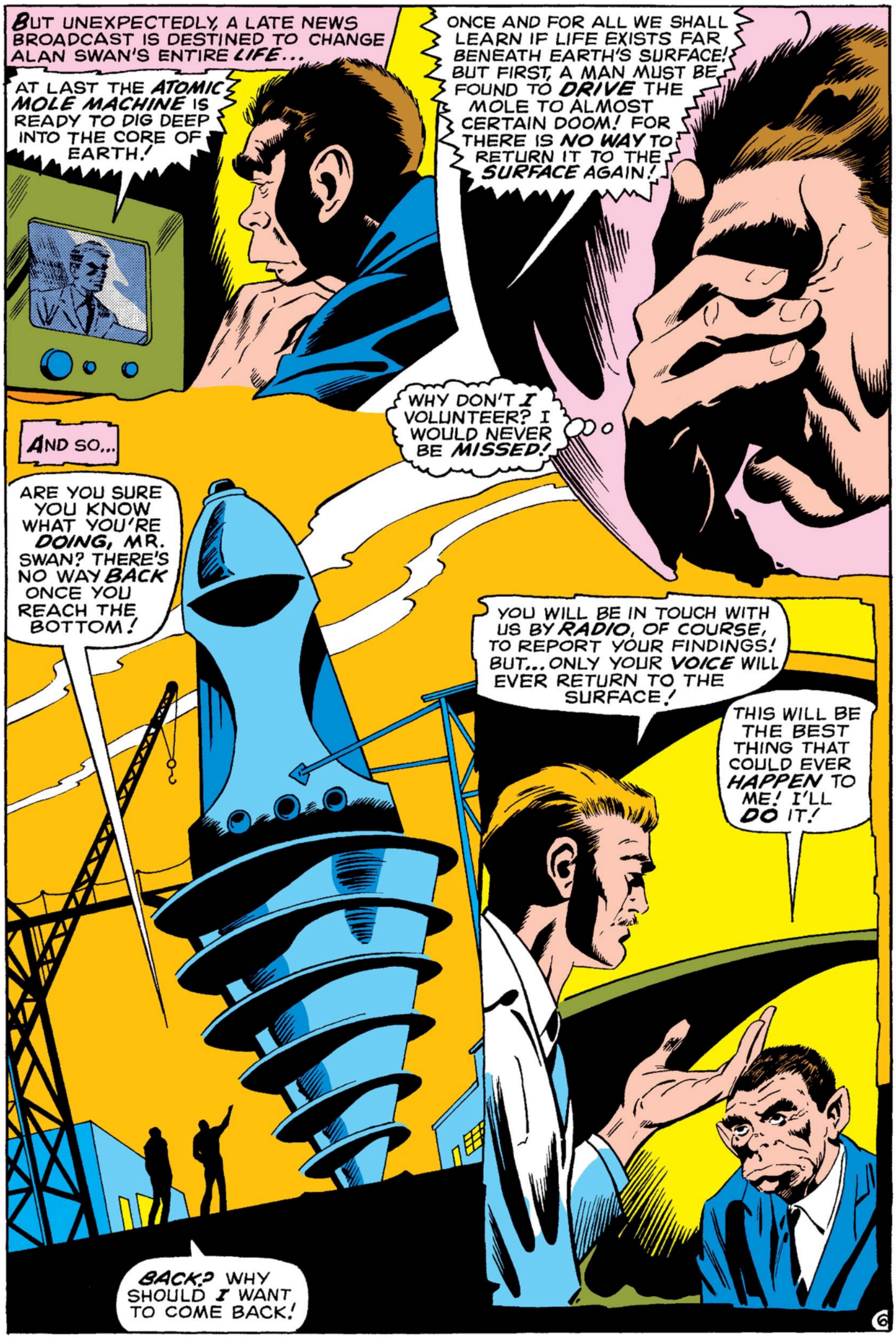
FOR HE EARNS HIS LIVING AS...A *SINGER* AND COMPOSER OF *ROMANTIC* BALLADS!

ALAN, YOUR NEW DISC SHOULD SELL A *MILLION!*

BUT, THERE IS ONE DEPARTMENT IN WHICH ALAN SWAN IS... *A FAILURE!*

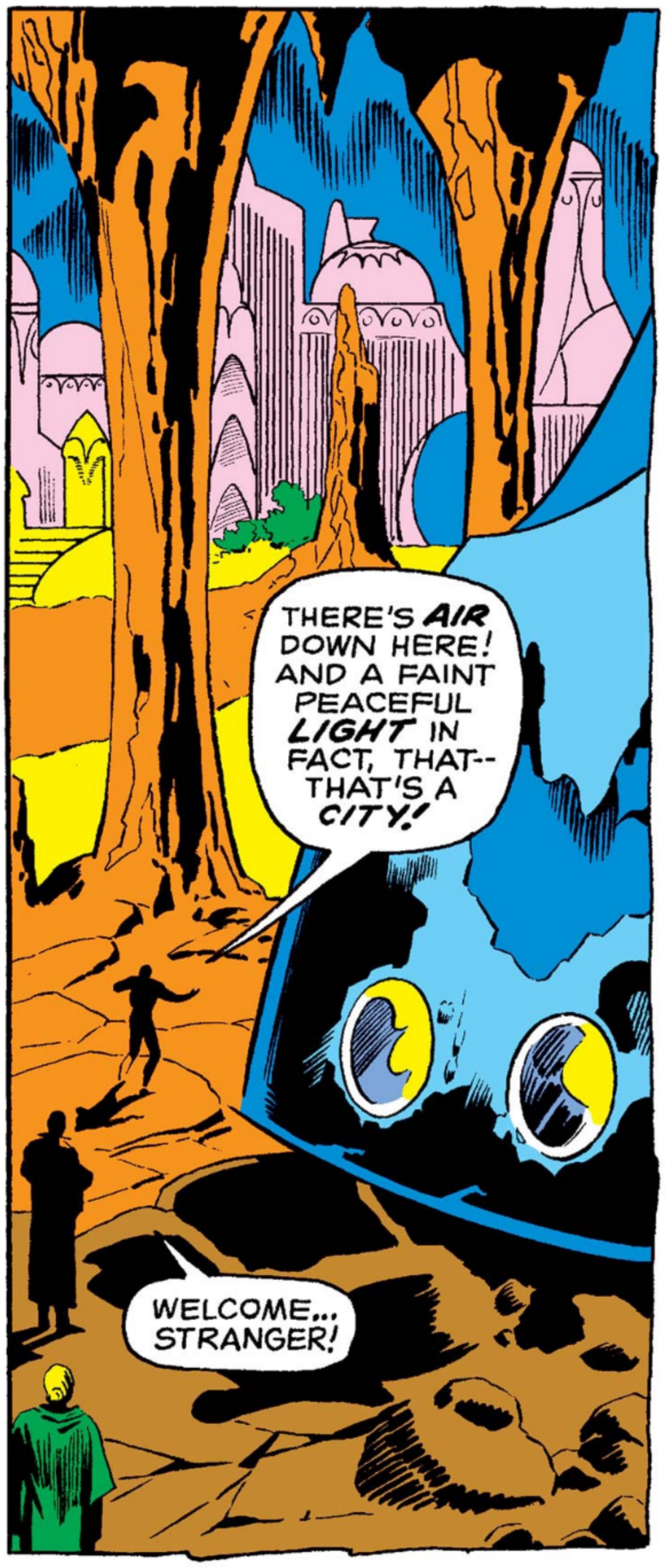
SORRY, ALAN! I'M DATED UP FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR!

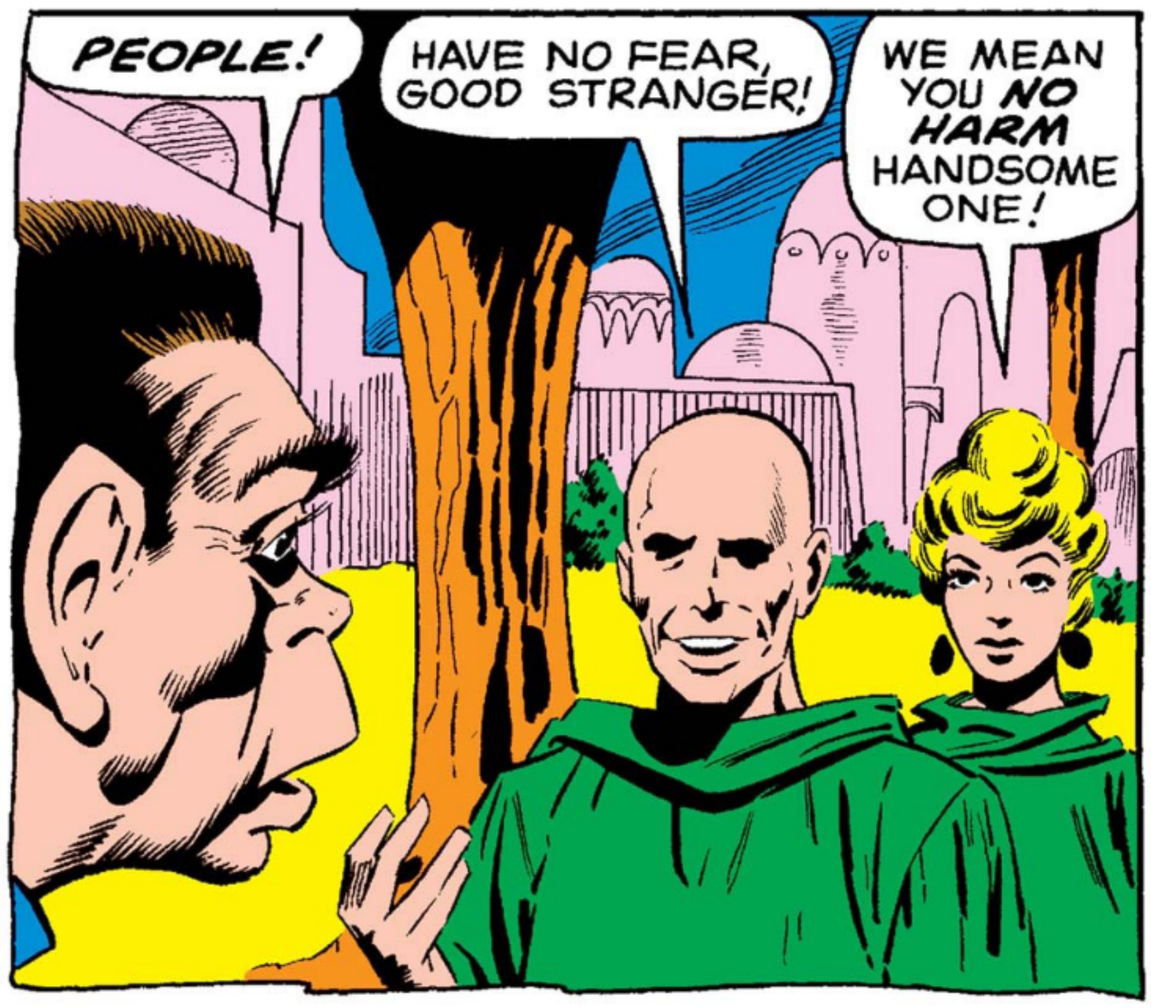

ALAN SWAN, ONE OF THE MOST DECENT MEN ON EARTH IS COMPLETELY FRIENDLESS...
A PARTY? SORRY ALAN! I--EH, HAVE A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT!
I UNDERSTAND!
THE WORLD IS OVER POPULATED... FILLED WITH TEAMING BILLIONS ...BUT I, I CANNOT FIND ONE OTHER HUMAN BEING TO LOVE...
PERHAPS YOU'VE GUESSED THE REASON BY NOW! FOR YOU SEE, THIS IS ALAN SWAN...!
WHY WAS I BORN SO UGLY? WHY MUST I GO THRU LIFE LONELY AND UNLOVED--?
WHY HAS FATE MADE ME THE LIVING GARGOYLE THAT I AM?
WHY? WHY? WHY?
WHY...
JUST MARRIED
5

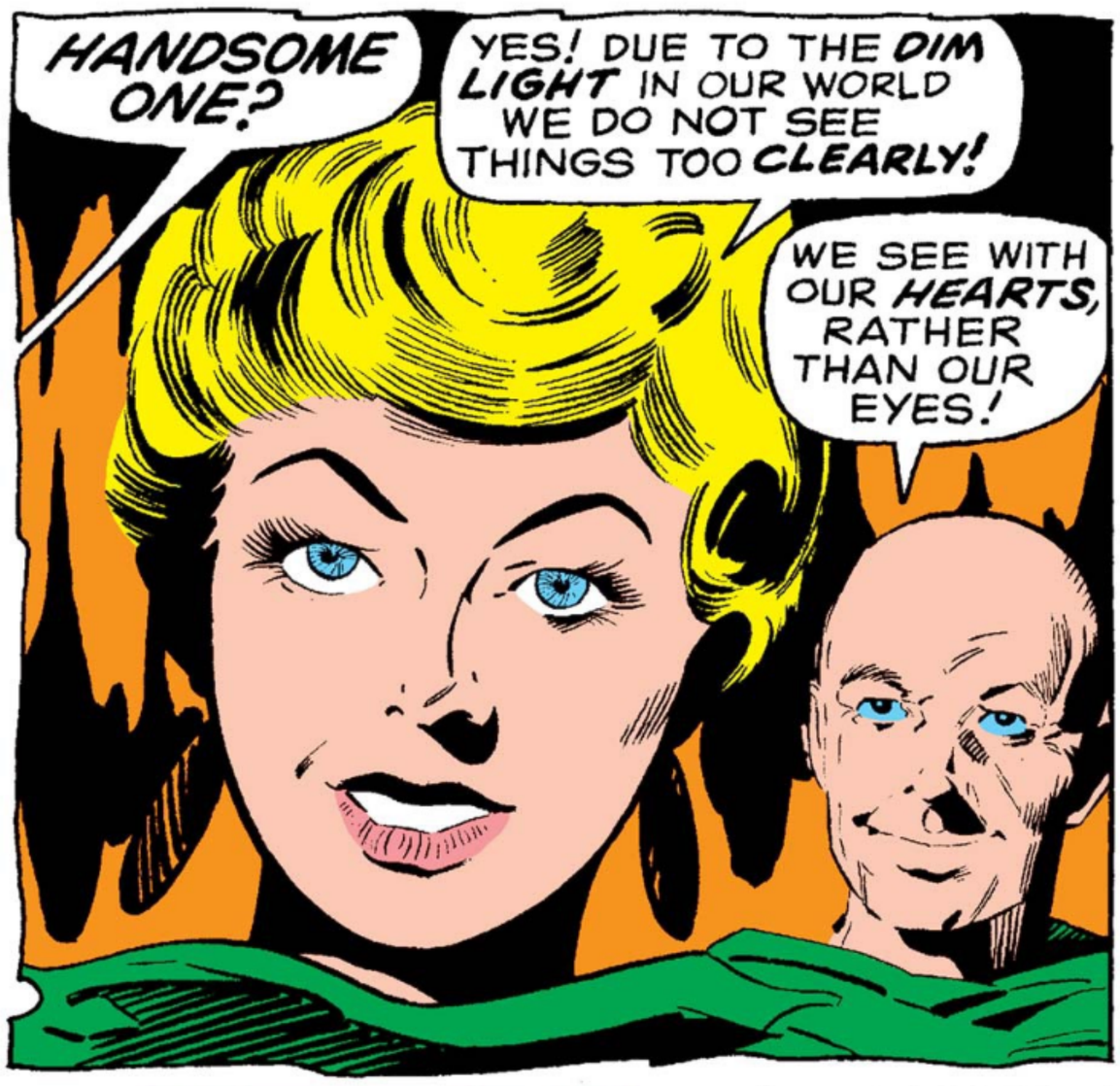

BUT UNEXPECTEDLY, A LATE NEWS BROADCAST IS DESTINED TO CHANGE ALAN SWAN'S ENTIRE LIFE...
AT LAST THE ATOMIC MOLE MACHINE IS READY TO DIG DEEP INTO THE CORE OF EARTH!
ONCE AND FOR ALL WE SHALL LEARN IF LIFE EXISTS FAR BENEATH EARTH'S SURFACE! BUT FIRST, A MAN MUST BE FOUND TO DRIVE THE MOLE TO ALMOST CERTAIN DOOM! FOR THERE IS NO WAY TO RETURN IT TO THE SURFACE AGAIN!
WHY DON'T I VOLUNTEER? I WOULD NEVER BE MISSED!
AND SO...
ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MR. SWAN? THERE'S NO WAY BACK ONCE YOU REACH THE BOTTOM!
YOU WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH US BY RADIO, OF COURSE, TO REPORT YOUR FINDINGS! BUT... ONLY YOUR VOICE WILL EVER RETURN TO THE SURFACE!
THIS WILL BE THE BEST THING THAT COULD EVER HAPPEN TO ME! I'LL DO IT!
BACK? WHY SHOULD I WANT TO COME BACK!
6

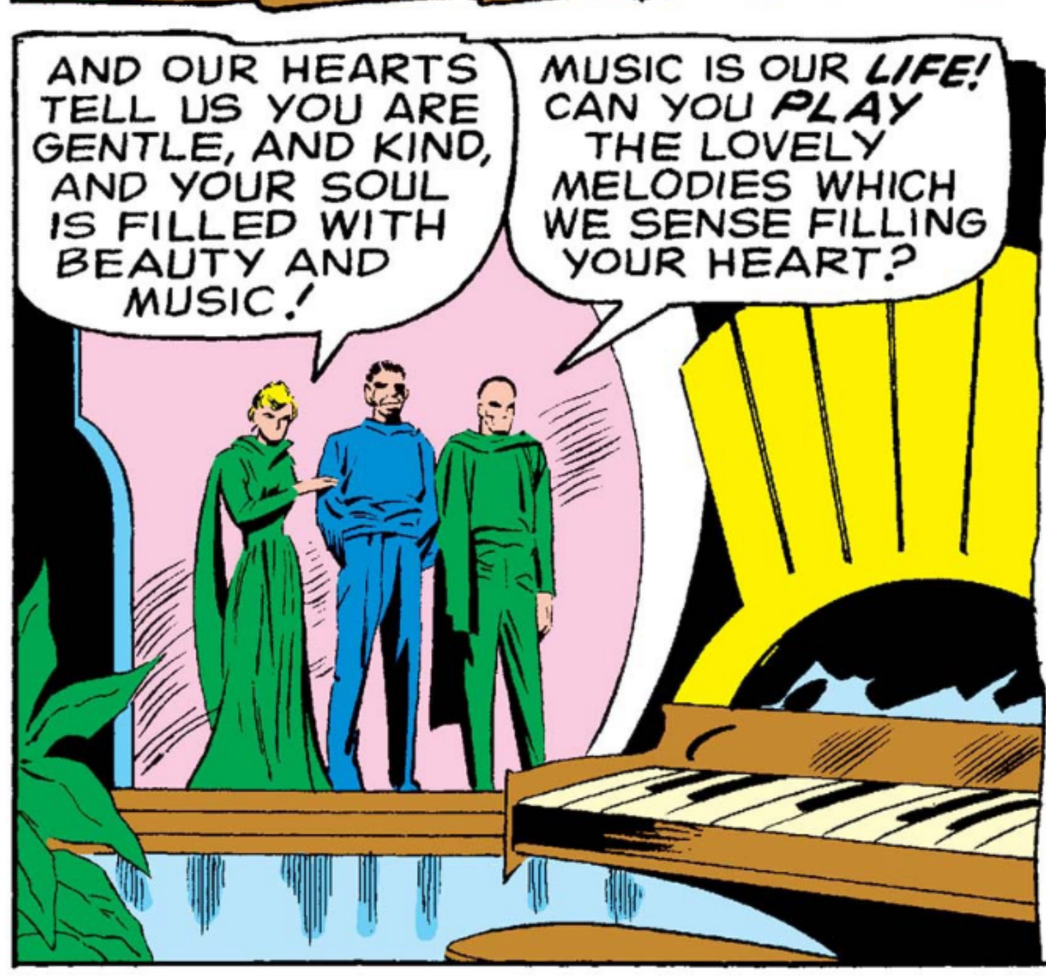
ALAN SWAN HAS MADE HIS DECISION-- LIFE ON EARTH HOLDS NOTHING MORE FOR HIM-- AND SO, HE BEGINS HIS MONUMENTAL JOURNEY...
THE MACHINE IS POWERED TO REACH THE CENTER OF EARTH AND THEN STOP... FOREVER! A FITTING END TO ALAN SWAN!
RRRRRRR
PERHAPS THIS IS WHY I WAS BORN A GARGOYLE --SO THAT EARTH WOULD HAVE A MAN WELL-SUITED FOR SUCH A MISSION!
7

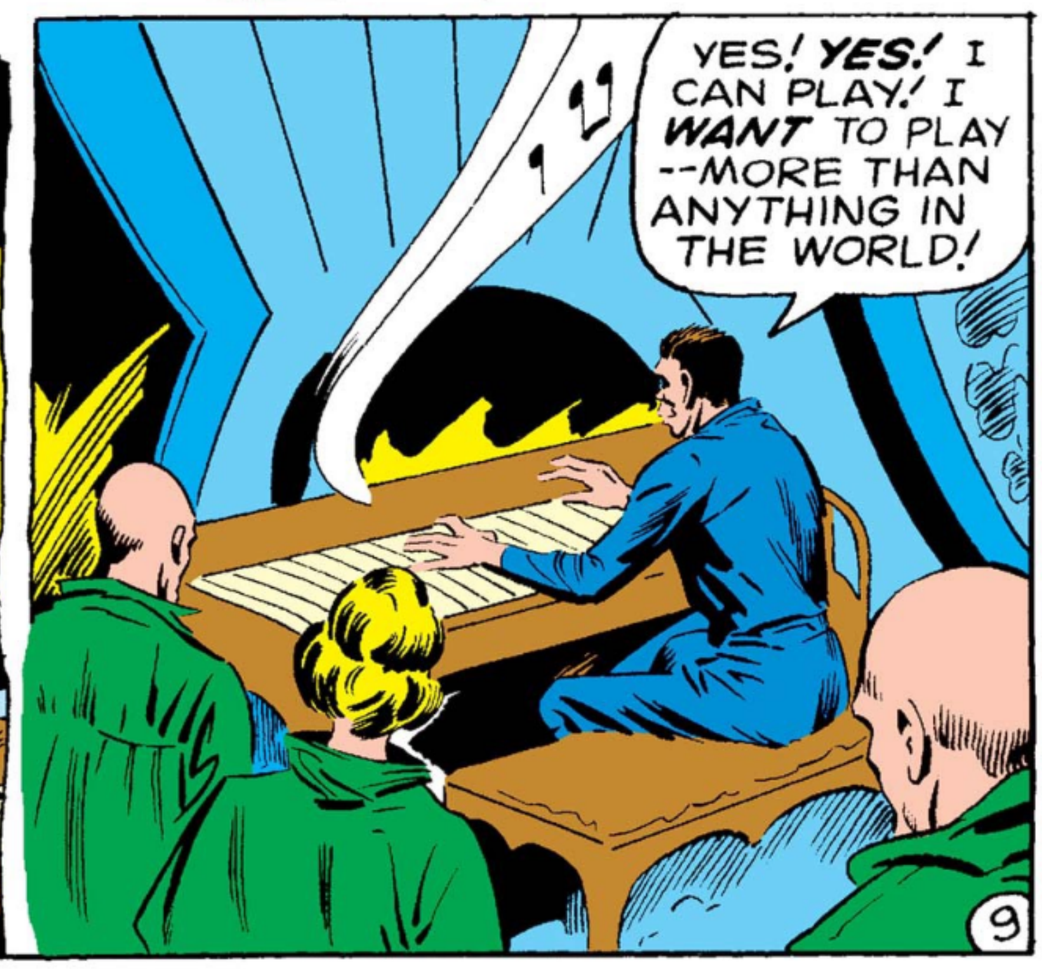
EVER DEEPER PROBES THE MOLE-- MINUTES TURN TO HOURS, AND FINALLY TO...
...DAYS--IT'S BEEN DAYS...FOOD RUNNING LOW-- MUST BE NEAR THE CORE...
AIR ALMOST GONE... MUST REACH THE CORE-- SOON...
--FINALLY!
IT'S STOPPED! THE POWER IS GONE AND I CAN BREATHE... I-I'VE REACHED THE CENTER OF EARTH!
8


THERE'S AIR DOWN HERE! AND A FAINT PEACEFUL LIGHT IN FACT, THAT-- THAT'S A CITY!
WELCOME... STRANGER!


PEOPLE!
HAVE NO FEAR, GOOD STRANGER!
WE MEAN YOU NO HARM HANDSOME ONE!


HANDSOME ONE?
YES! DUE TO THE DIM LIGHT IN OUR WORLD WE DO NOT SEE THINGS TOO CLEARLY!
WE SEE WITH OUR HEARTS, RATHER THAN OUR EYES!


AND OUR HEARTS TELL US YOU ARE GENTLE, AND KIND, AND YOUR SOUL IS FILLED WITH BEAUTY AND MUSIC!
MUSIC IS OUR LIFE! CAN YOU PLAY THE LOVELY MELODIES WHICH WE SENSE FILLING YOUR HEART?


YES! YES! I CAN PLAY! I WANT TO PLAY --MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD!

AHH! HEAR THE BEAUTIFUL MELODY!
IT IS THE LOVELIEST SOUND EVER HEARD!
LET US PAY HOMAGE TO THE MUSICIAN!
WE ARE GRATEFUL HANDSOME STRANGER!
YOU HAVE BROUGHT MUCH BEAUTY INTO OUR LIVES!
THEY-- THEY MEAN IT! THEY REALLY DO NOT SEE CLEARLY! THEY SENSE THINGS WITH THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS, INSTEAD!
WE BEG YOU TO REMAIN HERE WITH US, SO THAT THE BEAUTY OF YOUR MUSIC MAY INSPIRE US FOR ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE!
WE OFFER YOU OUR RESPECT, OUR GRATITUDE, AND OUR LOVE!
NO MORE REMAINS TO BE TOLD! IT CAN ALL BE SUMMED UP IN THE FIRST AND LAST MESSAGE FROM THE EARTH'S CORE...
THIS IS ALAN SWAN! AND THIS IS MY REPORT...
I HAVE REACHED THE BOTTOM OF EARTH, AND A MIRACLE HAS OCCURRED! FOR, HERE IN THE NAMELESS DEPTHS, I HAVE STUMBLED ONTO-- HEAVEN!
IN TRUTH, THE TIME MUST ONE DAY COME WHEN ALL MEN "SEE" WITH THEIR HEARTS AS WELL AS THEIR EYES! NOT UNTIL THEN WILL MANKIND KNOW THE MEANING OF... HEAVEN ON EARTH!
THE END

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE SURFER?!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE. N.Y., N.Y. 10022

Dear Messrs. Lee and Buscema,

After reading ' And Who Shall Mourn for Him?" in SILVER SURFER #5, I decided to use a formal salutation because I feel I owe it to you. To be honest with you, I am not a Marvelite, nor do I claim to be. SILVER SURFER #5, however, is perhaps the greatest and most heartwarming story to appear in any comic.

Al Harper and the Silver Surfer both shared a common bond with each other: persecution. Each knew what it means to be "different" and to be misunderstood. Though only a fictitious story, SILVER SURFER #5 had many truths to it; the ex-gambler who needed money in order to pay his bills, the con-men who made sure that the player lost either his money and/or his life, the frightened mob that would attack before listening to reason — all are so true in today's world.

The greatest part of the whole story was the unselfish sacrifice of Al "for the SAKE OF EVERYONE ON EARTH!" To see one man who met with persecutions and misunderstanding all his life give himself for mankind was truly noble. I don't cry, but I actually wept after reading the last panel of the story. I don't mean that I broke down and cried, but I did let a few tears fall. Perhaps it was because I could identify with Al since I too am a black American, or maybe it was because I take a sentimental look at things.

I haven't read SILVER SURFER since the first issue. Why I bought #5, I really don't know — but I'm glad I did. Thanks for reading this, and thanks again for such a wonderful story.

John Stewart II, 1219 Nolan St.
San Antonio, Texas 78202

Welcome back to the fold, John — and *our* thanks to *you* for a wonderful *letter!*

Dear Stan and John,

I feel you have achieved something in SILVER SURFER #5 which reaches the status of a modern classic, a milestone in the development of the superlative style of each individual Marvel character and strip. Here we have John's painstakingly explicit and graphically beautiful artwork — brought to its full potential by his brother's inking — tightly knit with some of the simplest, most lyrical scripting Stan has ever done; and we see the two functioning as a team, evolving their own library of new graphic clichés.

As to the philosophy of the Silver Surfer, both as a character and as a strip, I have an idea. I see the Surfer as depicting the noble anguish of a superhuman, almost god-like creature — perhaps indicating the elements of good that lie in man, as an individual and as a race —unable to escape having to deal with less pure elements, the evil or antisocial elements in men, individually or collectively. In terms of a wider application, the "shield" that prevents the good element(s) from escaping into isolation, the barrier to the Surfer's efforts to elude or evade the problem of dealing with evil, is the proximity of individuals to each other, and, indeed, of each individual to himself. As our environment thrusts us into closer contact with our neighbors, we had better learn to get along, for destruction is the only alternative.

Well, enough for now. Though I have written to you in the past, the pinnacle represented by SILVER SURFER #5, as well as the previous efforts leading to it, has fired in me a burst of enthusiasm of foreboding advances in the Second Coming of Comics, as championed by Marvel.

Charles Oldham, Box 394, George School
Newton, Pa. 18940

Dear Stan,

Do you really hate me that much? Could you really care so little about your own Marvels not to realize as I do that the only one to draw the true Silver Surfer is Jack (King) Kirby himself! Can't you see that John is ruining the Surfer's whole shiny image?

In fact, you are ruining the whole Marvel image now! What happened to the happy, fun-to-read superheroes? Sure, Spidey had his hang-ups, and he still does — but now we're stuck with a sobbing FF that has a little brat hanging around, X-Men with a dead Professor X, and a Daredevil without Karen.

So come on, you dingbats, get moving!

Paul Snyder, 9641 Winston
Chicago, Ill. 60643

We *are* moving, Paul. In fact, if we read your well-meant missive correctly, that's just the *problem* with Marvel — that it refuses to let its heroes stand still while the realities of day-to-day living go on about them. For, that is the obvious reason why Professor X, like all mortals, had to die — why Reed and Sue had a child just as they would have done if they *hadn't* been struck by cosmic rays — and indeed, why even Daredevil has had problems with the girl he loves.

Although we try not to get stuck in a rut, with each of our superheroes spending a full twenty pages a month in breast-beating, we've never really been committed to the policy that they — unlike other men and women of the world we live in — should be forever "happy." Matter of fact, just to bring the subject back to the Surfer himself, that's more or less why we changed that "shiny image" you mention.

We're not trying to put you down, Paul — honest! But, are you sure you don't have us mixed up with some *other* comic-mag company?

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (Real Frantic One)—A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags a month.

T.T.B. (Titanic True Believer) — A divinely-inspired 'No-Prize' winner.

Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Sayer) — A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

K.O.F. (Keeper Of the Flame) — One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.

P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus) —Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.

F.F.F. (Fearless Front-Facer) — An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear Stan and Gang,

At this crucial point in world affairs, it behooves us as historians to comment upon one known as the Watcher. Although not ordinarily integrated into formal coursework on the philosophy of history, the Watcher's impartial narratives should rank with such objective historians as Leopold Von Ranke.

The Watcher's dispassionate view of an imperfect world is understandable within the Rankean framework. It is imperative, however, to consider the matter of moral commitment when viewing the actions of puny, fallible men. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., epitomizes a distinct commitment to the New Deal and the Democratic Party, and even the Blue Beetle *(sheesh!)* espoused his commitment to the virtues of Ayn Rand and William F. Buckley. Why can't the Watcher make his stand to an activist philosophy?

Your comics voice a strong concern for social justice in an evil world. As historians, we therefore implore the Watcher to be something more than a mere observer. As Thor might put it. "Let no voice be silent whilst evil doth reign."

Yours till the Silver Surfer finds true freedom.

Rick Brown and Roy Wortman,
Teaching Associates, Ohio State University
Department of History,
216 N. Oval Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43210

We've pondered long and hard over your exhortative epistle, friends, and we're with *you* — at least insofar as it behooves the majority of Marvel characters to take a stand on the issues that confront a free society.

However, we've got to admit that one bare-faced exception to this general truth is our wondrous Watcher, who by his very nature — as revealed months ago in his awesome origin is condemned forever merely to stand — and helplessly watch!

If you're bound and determined to fit him into a philosophical scheme of things, though, may we suggest that we see him as the epitome, the very *essence* of the non-activist — the man who, insistent on remaining uninvolved, runs the risk of detaching and alienating himself from the more fallible race which has spawned him.

For, is not such a man truly condemned as well, in his own way, merely to stand and watch — while life goes on about him?

Dear Stan and John,

I really don't like writing this letter, but I believe it will benefit you more than hurt you. There has been a recent trend by Marvel to put the Negro in the spotlight (i.e., the Black Panther, Joe Robertson, Centurius). I'm all for it, but when you start your own civil rights protest, well, I'm against that.

I'm talking about the recent SILVER SURFER #5. The part I didn't like was when the Surfer asked why Al Harper helped him. The reply was, "Mebbe it's 'cause I know how it feels to be pushed around!" That was uncalled for! For months you've been knocking "us" (you know who I mean). It sounds as if we were all big, bad murderers who liked hurting minorities. What about the Chinese, Mexican, Jewish, Irish or Catholic minorities? In many parts of the world, they are suffering, too. So how about letting up?

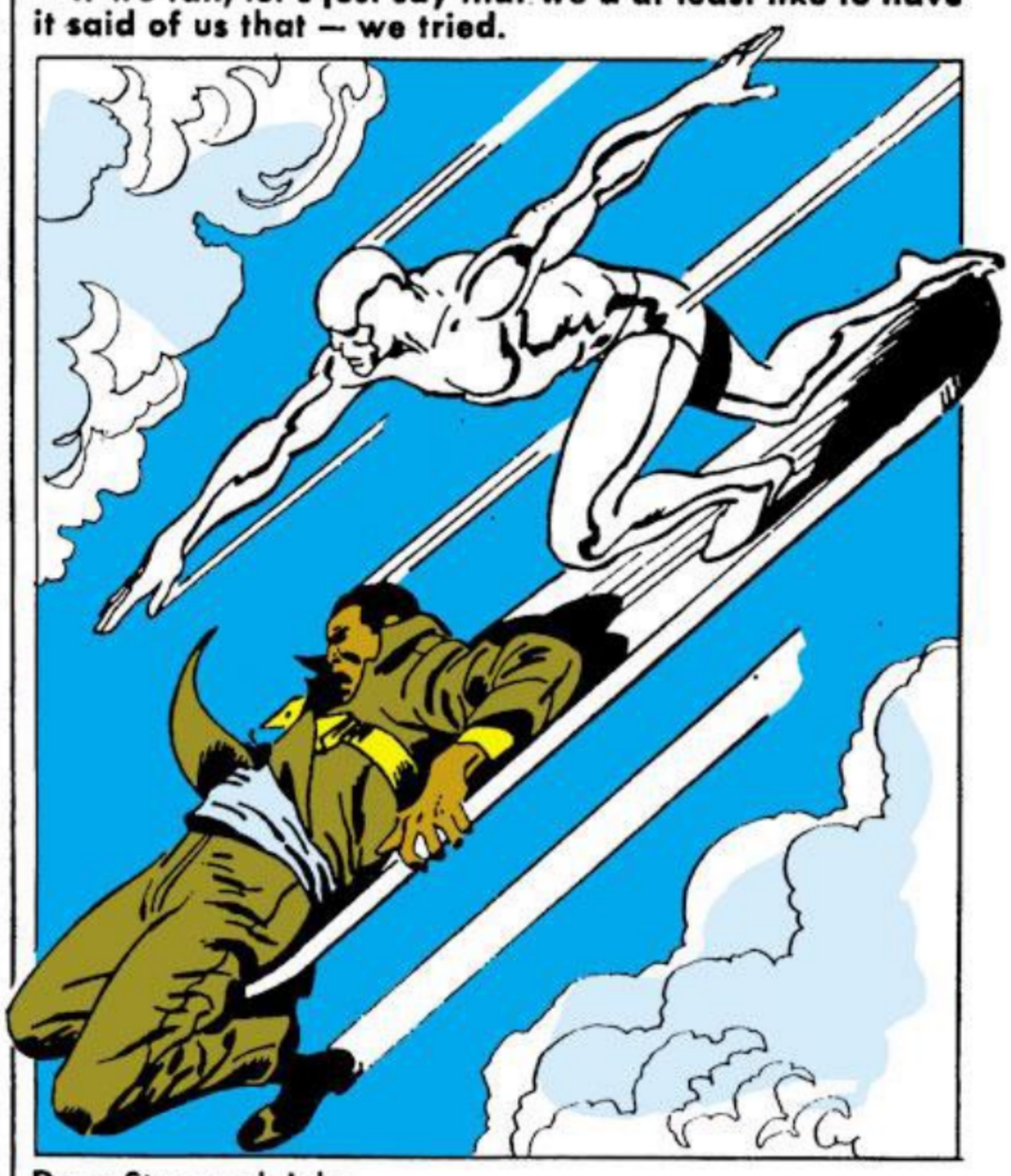
I'm not a racist, just a concerned Marvelite who doesn't want his favorite comic company to be ruined by something that really doesn't concern you as comic publishers.

Tim Sullivan, 1522 Shadylawn Dr.
Burlington, N. C. 27215

But, such matters as racism and equality *do* concern us, Tim — not just as comic-mag artists and writers and publishers, but as human beings.

Certainly it's never been our intention to portray all, or even most, white Americans as hard-core bigots or screaming racists. Maybe it's just that we think that many people in this land of the free have too long turned their backs or averted their eyes to the more unpleasant things that are going on every day. Maybe we felt we could do something — even within the relatively humble format of what used to be called a "comic-book" — to change things just a bit for the better.

If we fail, let's just say that we'd at least like to have it said of us that — we tried.



Dear Stan and John,

I've just finished reading SILVER SURFER #5 and I really don't know how I can convey to you how I feel. This magazine seems to be the culmination of all the hard work you've put in for years, trying to make the comic book into something more than the cheapest and most juvenile of all literary forms, as it was for so many years. Every issue so far has surpassed the previous one in quality and entertainment, in addition to the somewhat of a "message" it has, unheard of before in any comic magazine. The size of the book gives the story a chance to develop properly, and I'd much rather see it in this form than spread out over two or three issues of a small edition.

The illustrations by the brothers Buscema contribute a great deal to the atmosphere of the tale, although I wish everyone would stop comparing them to the work of Jack Kirby, as their whole style is different from that of Jack and should be judged on its own merits.

Dan Recchia, 169 Waverly Ave.
Mamaroneck, N. Y. 10543

Sentiments with which we wholeheartedly concur, Dan. In addition, as others have noticed (and we've been quick to admit), Stan and the Buscema siblings have somewhat altered the Surfer from the coldly impersonal hero he once was; and this too adds to the difference between the Surfer as he was drawn in the earlier issues of F.F. and our sky-riding sentinel as he is depicted today.